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SUPER CIRCUS

MAY 1951 No. 3

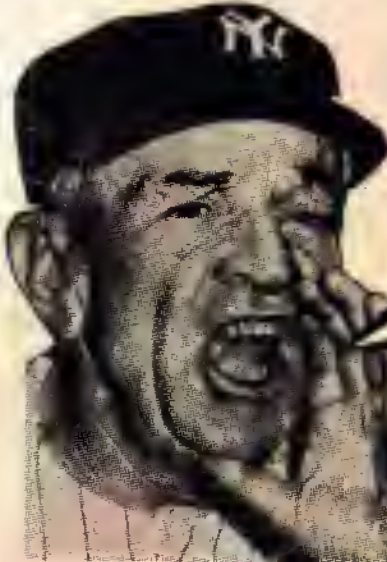
10 CENTS



A TRUE CROSS COMIC • A TRUE CROSS COMIC



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For the Thrill of a Lifetime Play Red Barber's NEW sensational Big League Baseball Game!

Big League Stars Highly Endorse It!

"Playing RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME is a swell way for kids to learn baseball inside out. It teaches them all the fine points of the game so that when they get out on the playing field they will feel right at home and have that important baseball know-how. Players learn to know the in-field and outfield. A fielder learns what base to throw the ball to, and a runner knows when to try for the extra base. It is a swell game to play on rainy days and ideal for mapping out baseball strategy."

CASEY STENGEL

"RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME is tops in any man's league. All the plays made in real baseball can be made right on this game. I think every baseball fan in America will get a big kick out of playing this exciting game."

"RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME is just what baseball fans have been waiting for. It is the only game I have ever seen in which the ball is hit, fielded, and played right on the diamond while the runners move around the bases. I think it is the baseball game of the century!"

TOMMY HENRICH

"RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME is a percent winner every time! I like it because you must use your skill and baseball know-how on every play. The late inning suspense is terrific too. I got a big kick when I hit a triple the first time I played the game."

CARL ERSKINE

"When the game's rained out, there's nothing that I like better than to play RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME. It's terrific! Over 2000 winning records of actual major league baseball games were used in working out this game. It is truly a work of genius. No gadgets or mechanisms to get out of order or to 'throw' a game. You must use your baseball smarts to win."

PRESACRE ROE

"This game is figured out with all the percentages. I get a big kick out of playing it."

ROY CAMPANELLA

"RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME is the most realistic, exciting game I've ever seen. I really get a thrill out of playing those ground balls and trying for those double plays. It's a game you will never tire of."

YIP WEE RING

YOU'VE TROTTLED in Red Barber's play-by-play description of professional baseball games on radio and television.

Now, for the thrill of a lifetime, play Red Barber's New, Sensational BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME right in your home. It's sweeping the country like wildfire. . . . Big League baseball stars, managers, and fans everywhere are fascinated by this lifelike reproduction of a big league baseball game.

Those who know their baseball game about it: Casey Stengel, Rube Stinson, Eddie Dyer, Stan Musial, Roy Campanella, Pee Wee Reese, Preaching Roe, Carl Erskine, Tommy Henrich, and many other great baseball stars are most enthusiastic in their praise of this sensational new game. Nothing like it ever before!

You Can Make Every Imaginable Play

Red Barber's BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME is the most realistic, action-packed game you have ever seen. Yet, here's real baseball — just the way it is played in big league games.

You are the manager and you place your nine men wherever you think best. The batter hits the fast ball and the ball actually moves across the diamond. At the same instant the batter is straining for first. Just think of it! You actually play out every hit! There are bunts, grounders, drives, flies, pop ups—everything. Every play that is possible on the diamond can be made in Red Barber's BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME.

And what's more, the game never gets monotonous. It has been carefully worked out to conform with Major League averages of more than 1500 games over a period of two years. Every game you play is completely different.

All the Excitement of Real Games!

The game keeps you on your toes. You pit your baseball strategy against the expert down the street. Your shartapout scoops up a hot grounder. Shall he try the double play or make a force at third? Your split-second decision may determine whether you will win or lose the game. And don't forget the all-important factor of LUCK. The element of chance in Red Barber's BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME keeps the suspense always tense. Many a smile arising will find everyone on his feet as you frantically make your final play which will determine whether you win or lose.

This exciting game is a clock to learn because it is real baseball. There are no mechanical parts, no cards, or gadgets to confuse you. Any number can



Red Barber

play. Everyone gets a chance to participate. You can play alone, with a friend, or with a whole team. Pops up dull parties . . . a grand for newcomers after a hard day's work.

Game comes complete with beautifully colored life-like diamond, all instructions, players, batters, and extra scorecards. Attractive box with photos and signatures of your favorite Big League stars on cover. . . . Sturdily constructed for many years' use with large 15 x 25" playing field.

Game Sent on Approval for 30 Days!

Rush your order for Red Barber's sensational BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME today. It is impossible for you to appreciate what a realistic, exciting game it is until you play it yourself.

Just detach and mail coupon below TODAY with check or money order for \$2.95. . . . Then play RED BARBER'S BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME right in your own home. . . . Ask your friends over and thrill in this greatest of all sports. . . . If you're not so fascinated with this game as Stan Musial and Carl Erskine fans everywhere, return it within 30 days and your money will be promptly refunded!

\$2.95
COMPLETE

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400 MADISON Ave. N.Y. 17, N.Y.

Please send me postpaid RED BARBER'S SENSATIONAL NEW BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME for which I am enclosing check or money order for \$2.95. I understand if I am not more than pleased with this game that I may return it within 30 days and my money will be promptly refunded.

My Name is _____

My Address is _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Mail This
Coupon
TODAY!

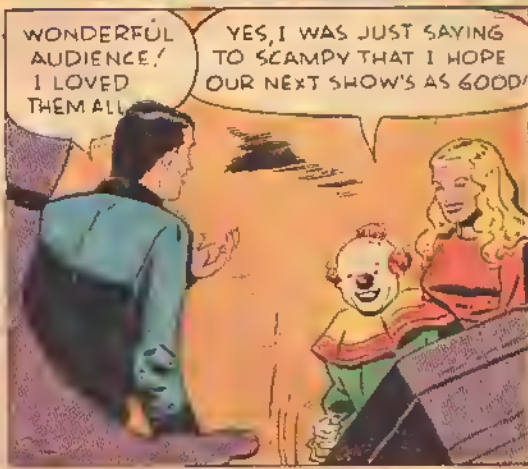
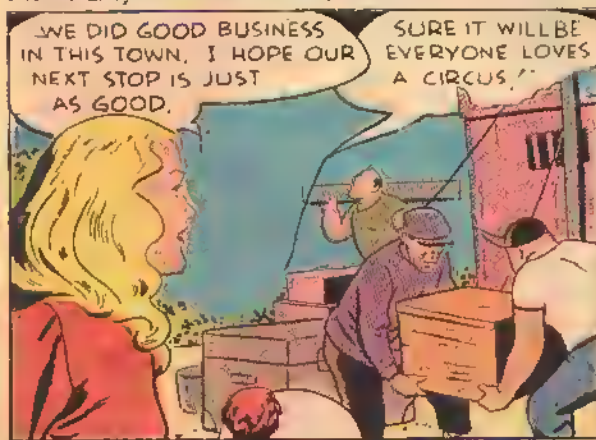


The SPIRIT of the CIRCUS

IT COULDN'T BE, OF COURSE, THE RINGMASTER POINTED THAT OUT. IT WAS RIDICULOUS, JUST AS MARY HARTLINE SAID, BUT SCAMPY INSISTED...AND WHO KNOWS, MAYBE SCAMPY WAS RIGHT AND THE OTHERS WRONG...BUT YOU DECIDE!

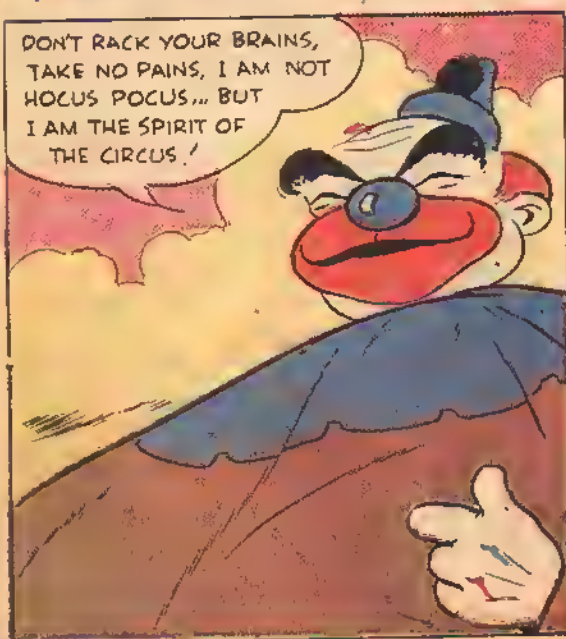
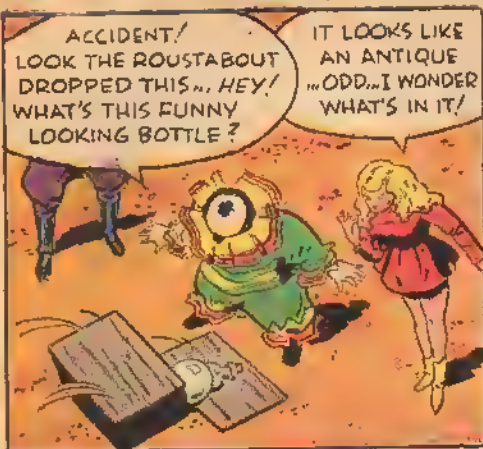


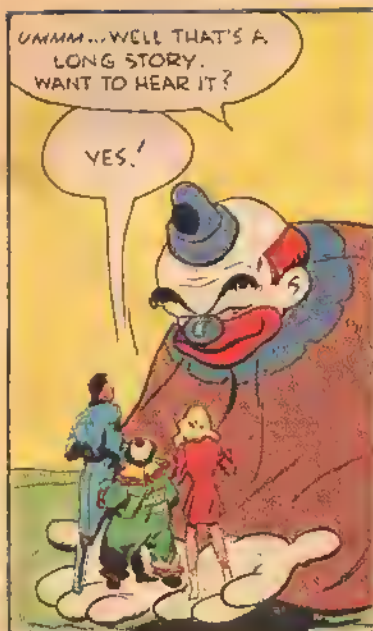
SHOW'S END, TIME TO PACK AND LEAVE FOR THE NEXT TOWN...

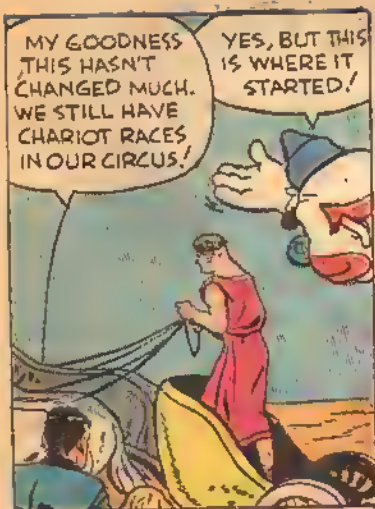


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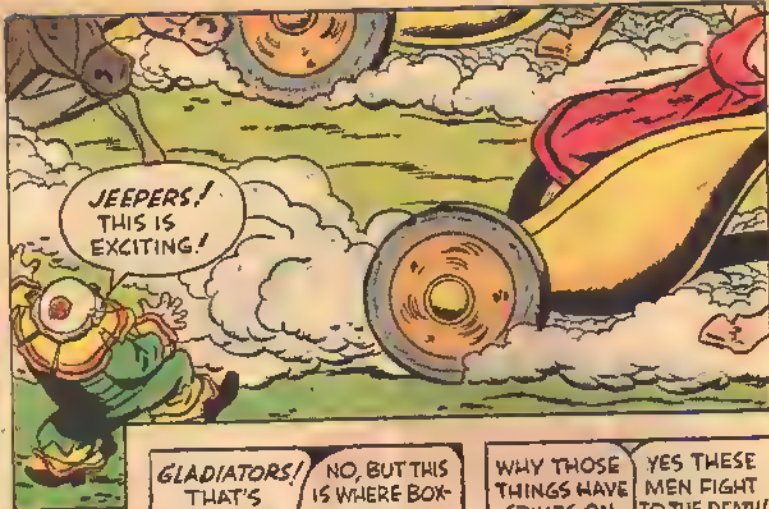




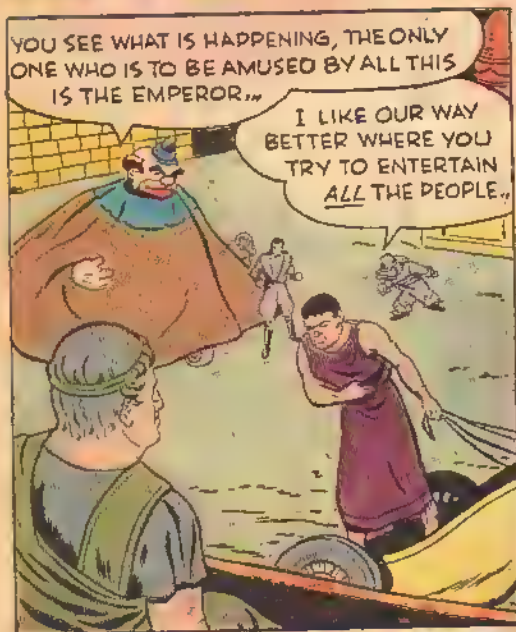


MY GOODNESS
THIS HASN'T
CHANGED MUCH.
WE STILL HAVE
CHARIOT RACES
IN OUR CIRCUS!

YES, BUT THIS
IS WHERE IT
STARTED!



JEEPERS!
THIS IS
EXCITING!



YOU SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING, THE ONLY
ONE WHO IS TO BE AMUSED BY ALL THIS
IS THE EMPEROR...

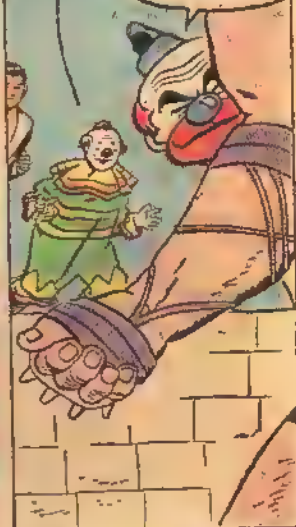
I LIKE OUR WAY
BETTER WHERE YOU
TRY TO ENTERTAIN
ALL THE PEOPLE...

GLADIATORS!
THAT'S
SOMETHING
OUR CIRCUS
DOESN'T
HAVE!

NO, BUT THIS
IS WHERE BOX-
ING BEGAN...
EXCEPT INSTEAD
OF SOFT LEATHER
GLOVES THESE
MEN FIGHT WITH...

WHY THOSE
THINGS HAVE
SPIKES ON
THEM!

YES THESE
MEN FIGHT
TO THE DEATH!
BUT LET'S
GET BACK TO
THE CIRCUS...

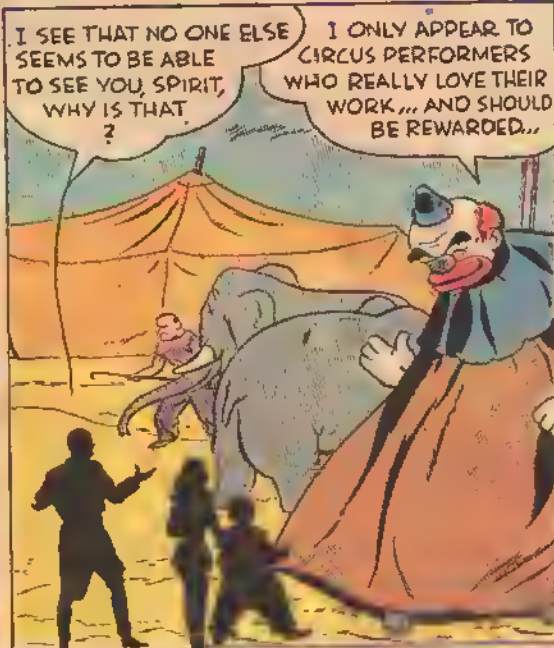


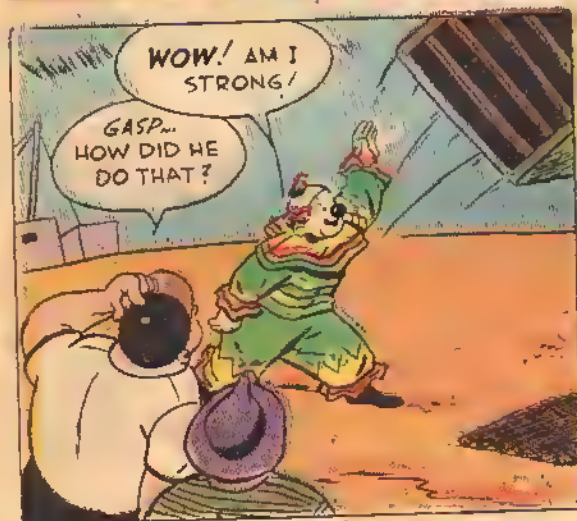
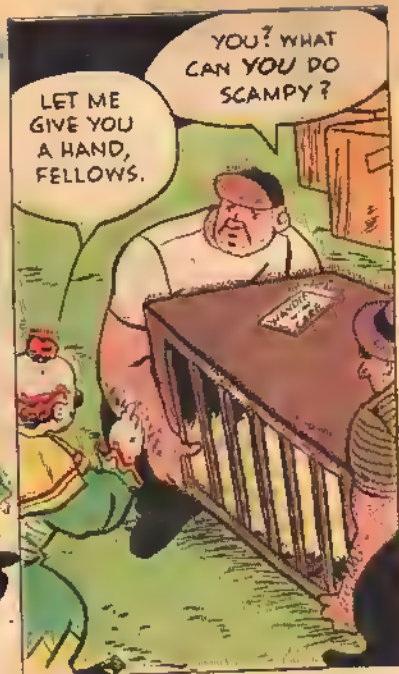
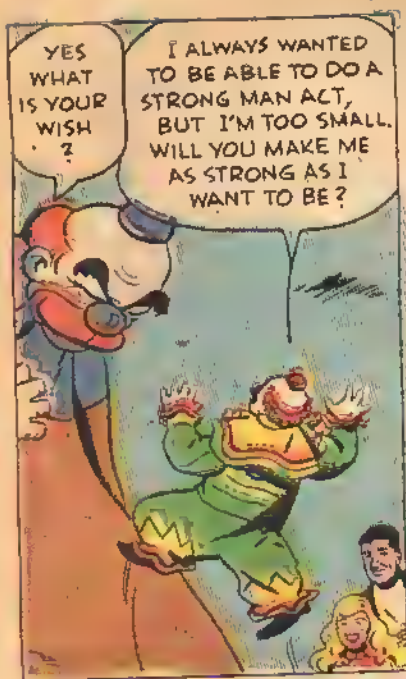
AFTER THIS THE
ROMANS FADED AWAY...
THE CIRCUS DISAPPEARED
FOR A THOUSAND YEARS
...BUT THEN... IN THE
MIDDLE AGES...

HEY!
JUGGLERS!
JUST LIKE WE
HAVE NOW!

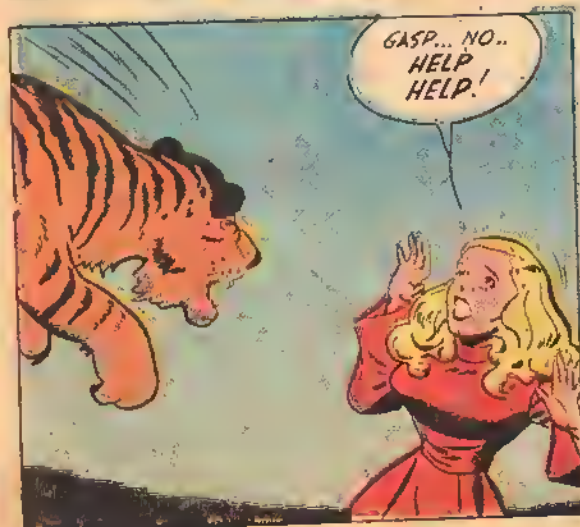
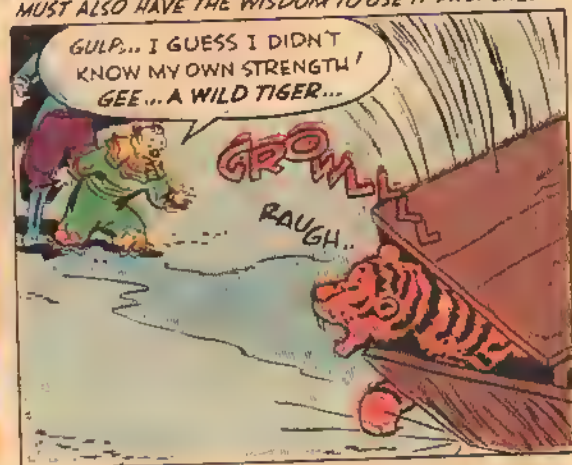
YES JUGGLERS ARE AMONG THE
OLDEST KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT...
THESE WANDERERS, ALMOST TRAMPS,
TRAVELLED EVERYWHERE... BUT
THE IDEA HAD CHANGED... NO
MORE CRUELTY AS IN ROME...
NOW THE IDEA IS TO
ENTERTAIN...

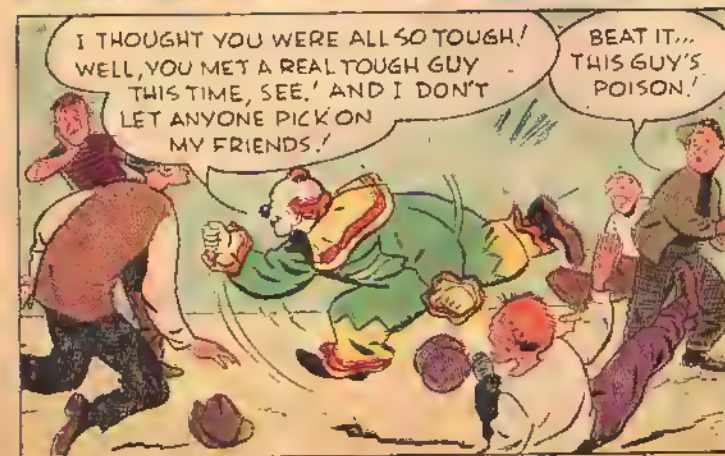
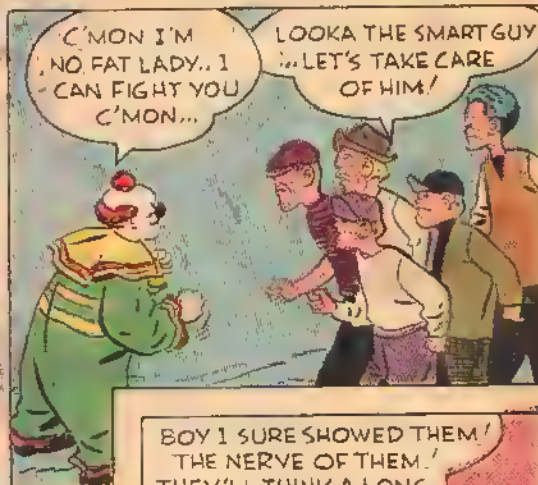
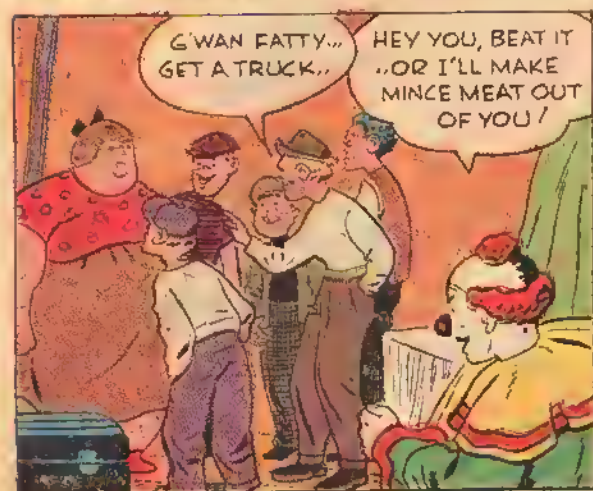
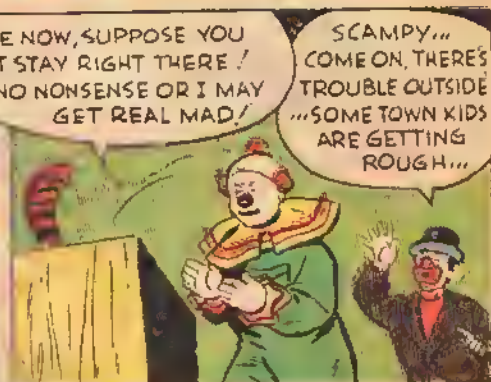






BUT UNFORTUNATELY ONE WHO HAS GREAT STRENGTH
MUST ALSO HAVE THE WISDOM TO USE IT PROPERLY...

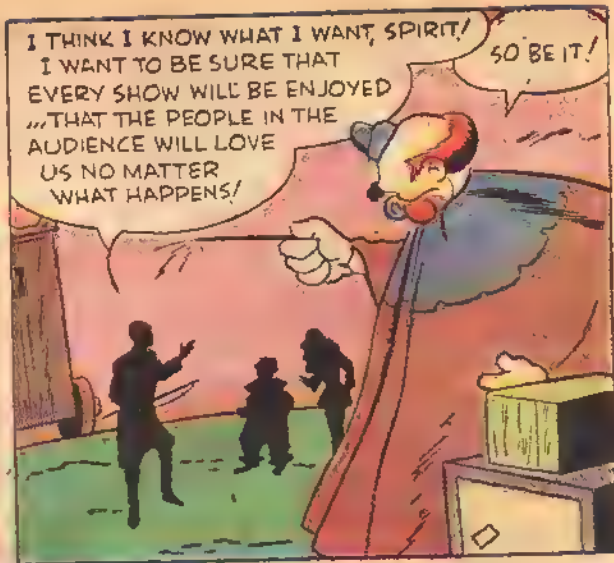






YOU
CALLING
ME, MARY-
?

YES, SCAMPY!
I CALLED YOU!
THE RINGMASTER IS
GOING TO MAKE
HIS WISH!



I THINK I KNOW WHAT I WANT, SPIRIT!
I WANT TO BE SURE THAT
EVERY SHOW WILL BE ENJOYED
...THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE
AUDIENCE WILL LOVE
US NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS!

SO BE IT!



I DON'T
LIKE THIS.. SCAMPY
HAS BECOME A
LITTLE BULLY
SINCE HE GOT HIS
WISH... THE RING-
MASTER'S WISH
SOUNDS ALL RIGHT
... BUT I DON'T
KNOW...



LATER... AT THE NEXT TOWN... THE NEXT SHOW...

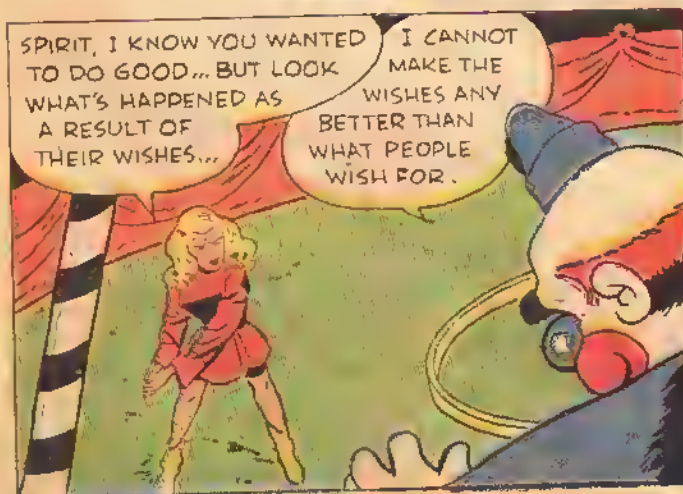
I DON'T GET IT.
THAT WAS A BAD
SHOW WE PUT ON
TONIGHT... AND YET
THE AUDIENCE IS
APPLAUDING AS
THOUGH WE
WERE GREAT!

IT'S THE
RINGMASTER'S
WISH... AND NOW
I KNOW WHAT
WAS WRONG
WITH IT...



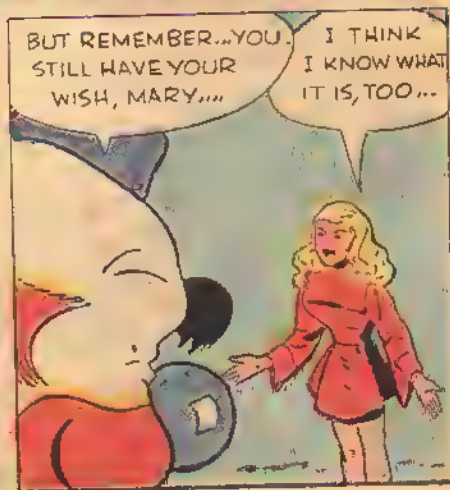
THAT WISH OF
MINE IS SURE
A BEAUT/
EVERYTHING
WENT WRONG
TONIGHT AND
YET THEY
LOVED US...

YEAH AND
MY WISH IS
WONDERFUL
...NO ONE PICKS
ON ME NOW...
EVERYONE IS
AFRAID OF ME!
I SHOWED
THEM!



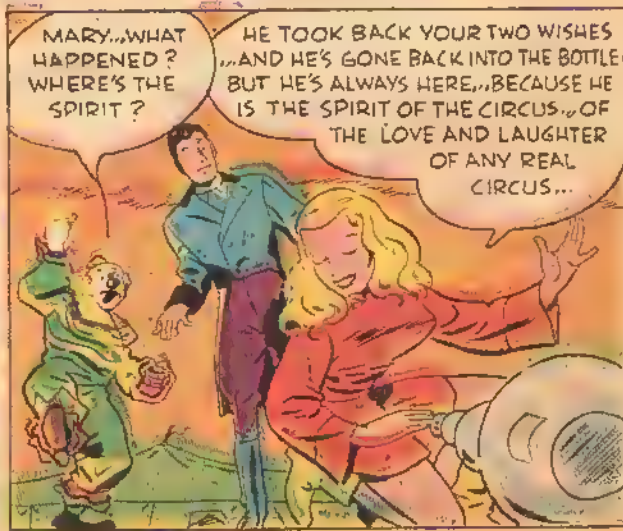
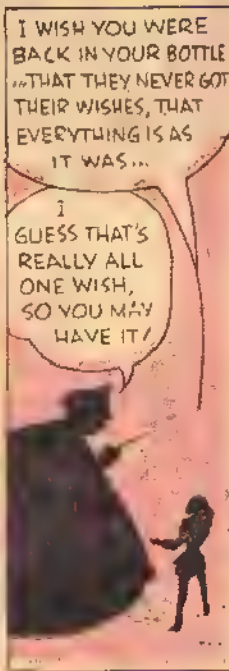
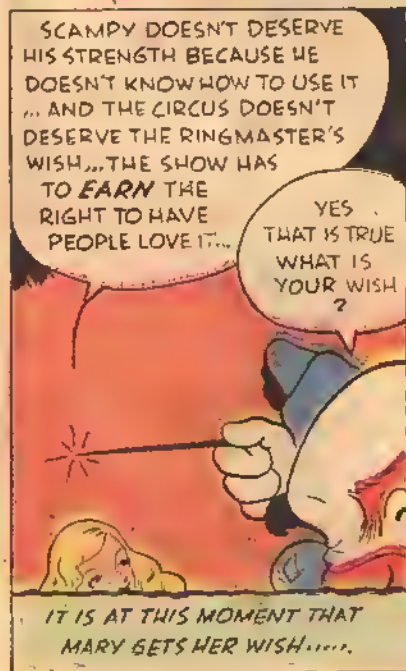
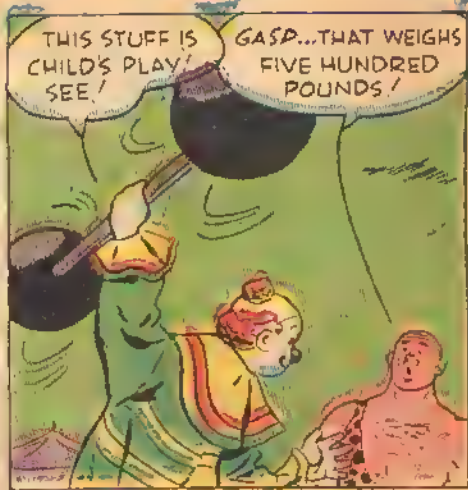
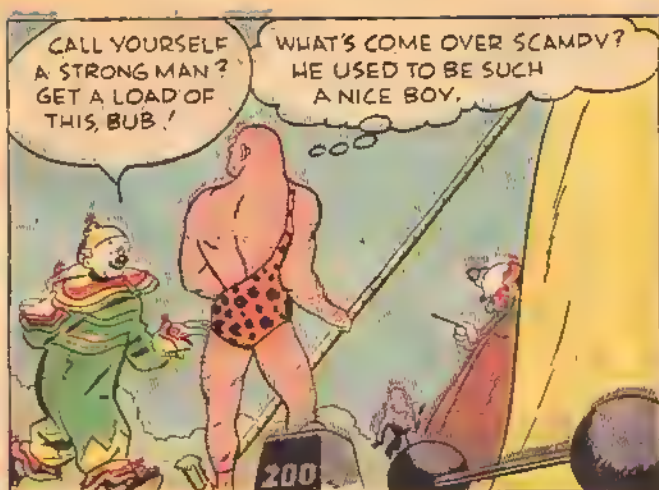
SPIRIT, I KNOW YOU WANTED
TO DO GOOD... BUT LOOK
WHAT'S HAPPENED AS
A RESULT OF
THEIR WISHES...

I CANNOT
MAKE THE
WISHES ANY
BETTER THAN
WHAT PEOPLE
WISH FOR.



BUT REMEMBER... YOU
STILL HAVE YOUR
WISH, MARY...

I THINK
I KNOW WHAT
IT IS, TOO...

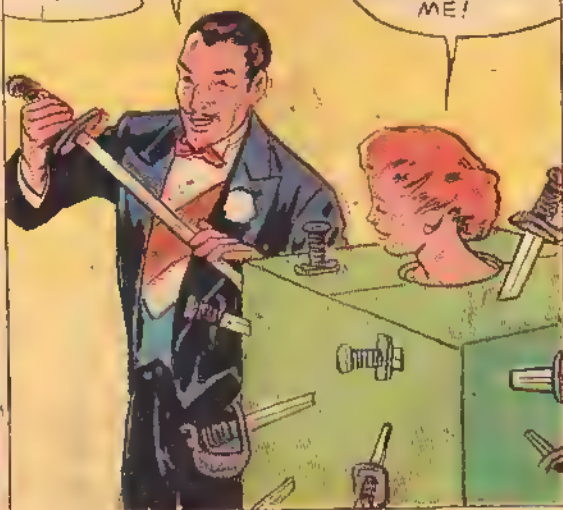
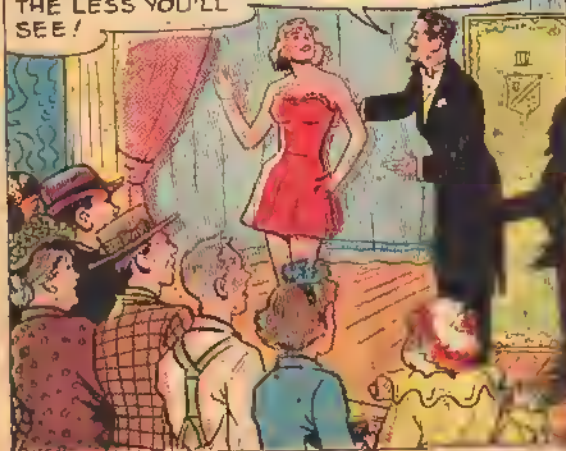


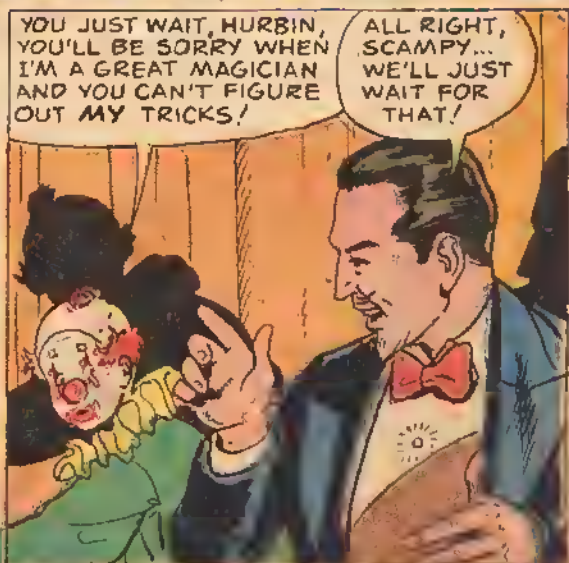
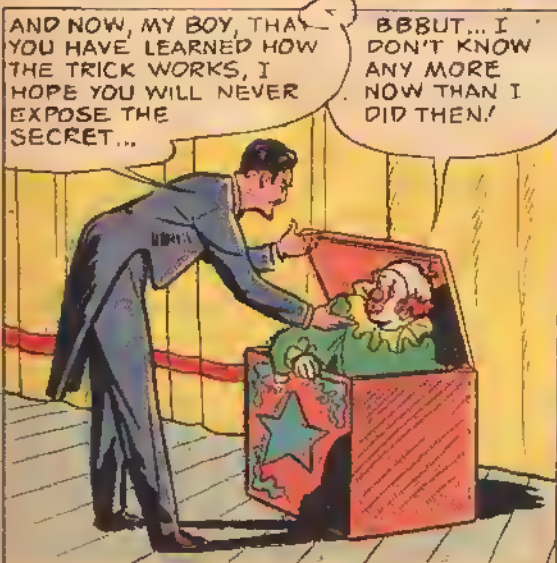
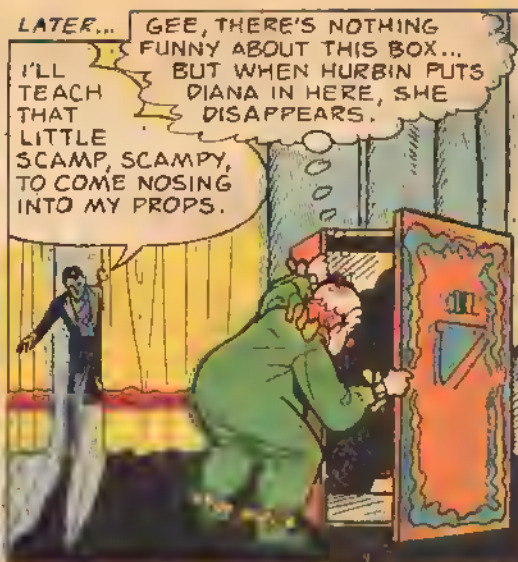
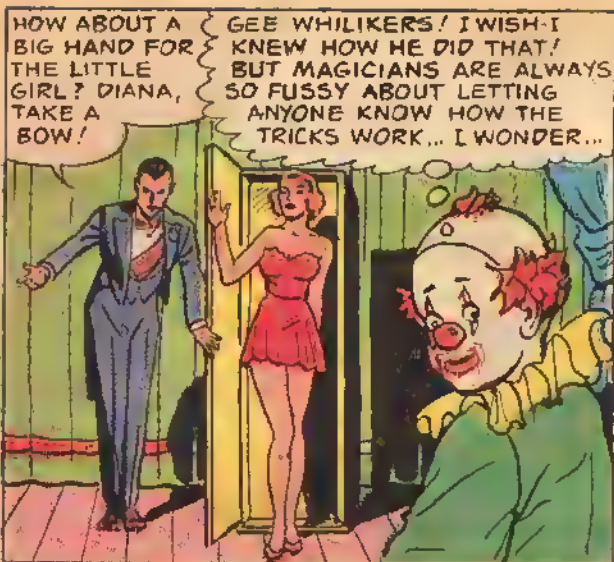
ADVENTURES OF SCAMPY

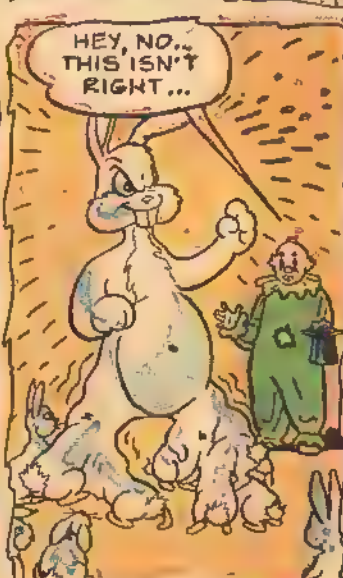
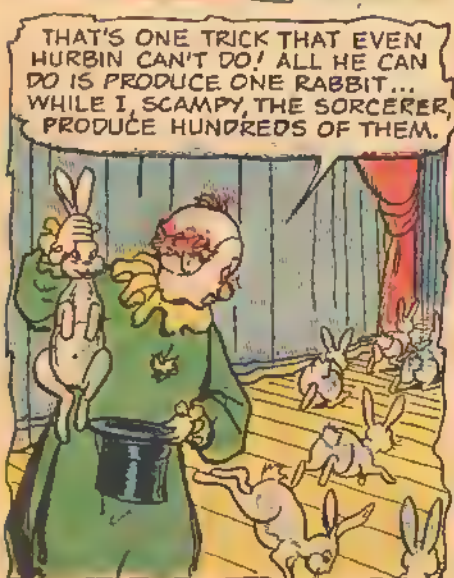
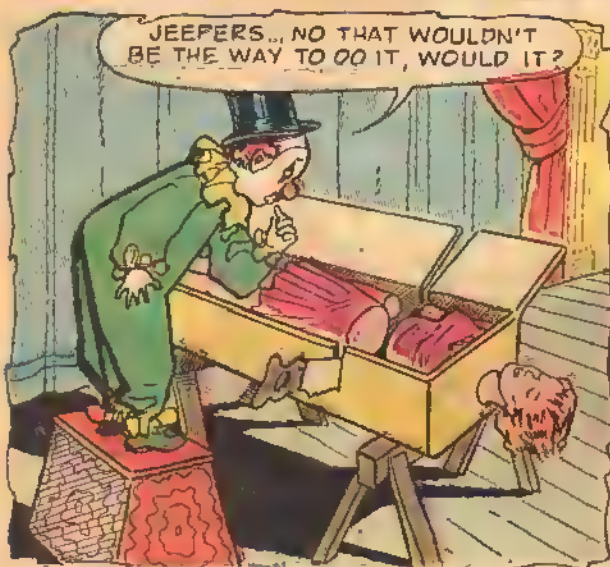
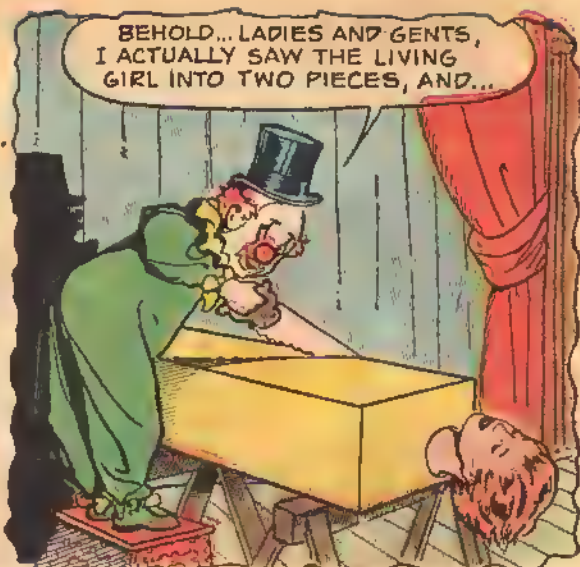
ANY BOY WHO IS IN A CIRCUS CAN FIND LOTS OF WAYS OF GETTING INTO TROUBLE, BUT SOMEHOW SCAMPY ALWAYS MANAGES TO FIND NEW WAYS... TAKE THE TIME HE DECIDED TO BECOME A MAGICIAN—AND LEARNED A LESSON, INSTEAD!

AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU
DIANA, THE GIRL PIN CUSHION! WATCH
CLOSELY, FOR THE CLOSER YOU WATCH...
THE LESS YOU'LL
SEE!

THAT LAST
SWORD...
TEE HEE...
IT'S TICKLING
ME!







WHILE SCAMPY DAYDREAMS...

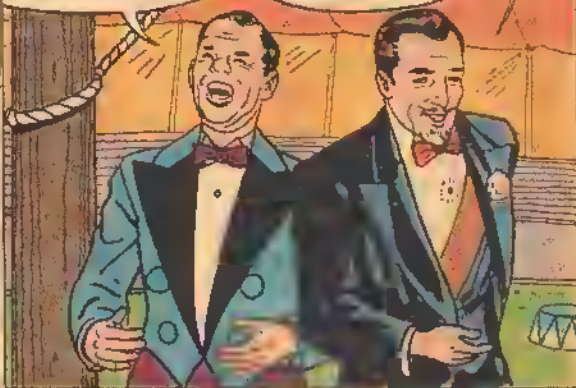
HELLO, CLAUDE, I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA FOR WHAT MIGHT BE A VERY FUNNY ACT FOR SCAMPY TO DO!

WELL, AS RING-MASTER OF THE CIRCUS, I'M ALWAYS INTERESTED IN GOOD IDEAS... WHAT IS IT?



HEY... HO, HO... THAT SHOULD BE VERY FUNNY... SURE, GO AHEAD, REHEARSE HIM IN IT... THEN WE'LL TRY IT OUT IN THE RING!

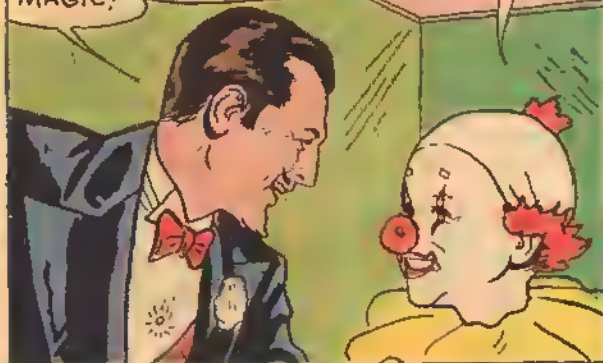
OKAY, I'LL GET TO WORK WITH SCAMPY... I WON'T EVEN LET HIM KNOW WHAT THE REAL IDEA IS... THAT'LL BE FUNNIER!



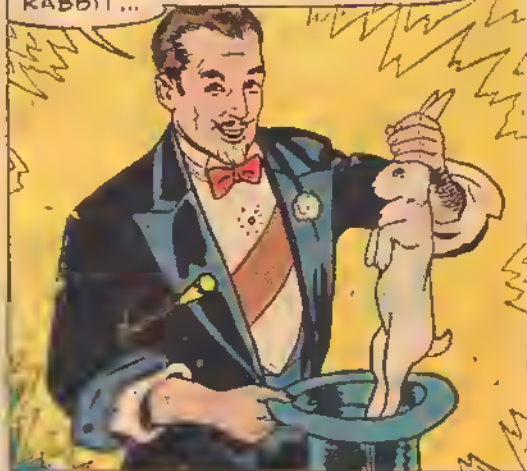
SO IT WAS THAT SCAMPY WAS VERY MUCH SURPRISED WHEN HURBIN SAID...

NOW THAT I SEE THAT YOU ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN MAGIC, I WILL HELP YOU. I WILL TEACH YOU SO THAT YOU, TOO, CAN DO MAGIC!

NO KIDDING! GEE, THAT'S WONDERFUL, MR. HURBIN!



THAT'S IT... WAVE THE WAND, THEN LOOK IN THE HAT, SEEM SURPRISED, THEN REACH IN AND PULL OUT A RABBIT...



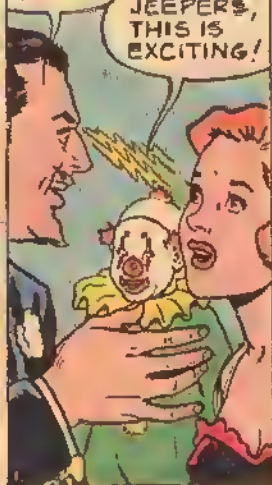
AND FROM THIS EMPTY HAT, I PRODUCE A RABBIT...

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE IDEA... NOW NEXT... THE FLOATING LADY...



FIRST I HYPNOTIZE DIANA, LIKE THIS...

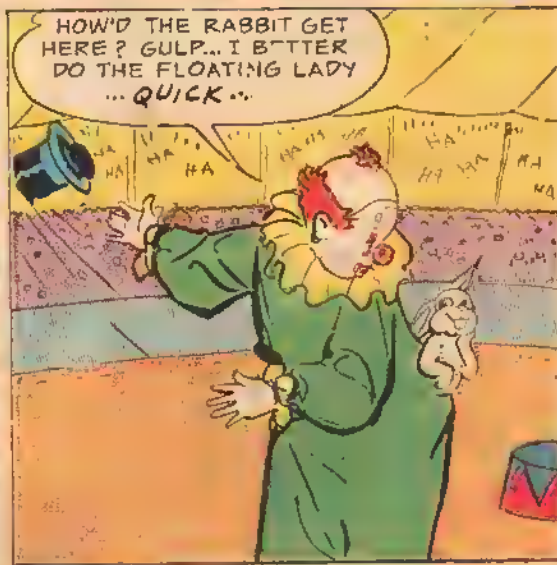
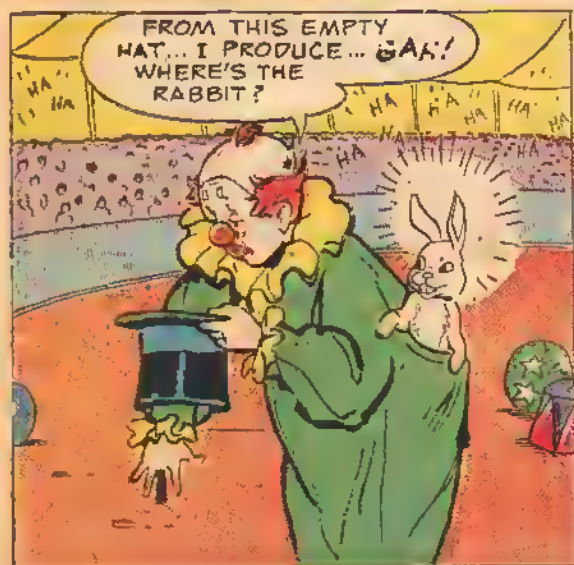
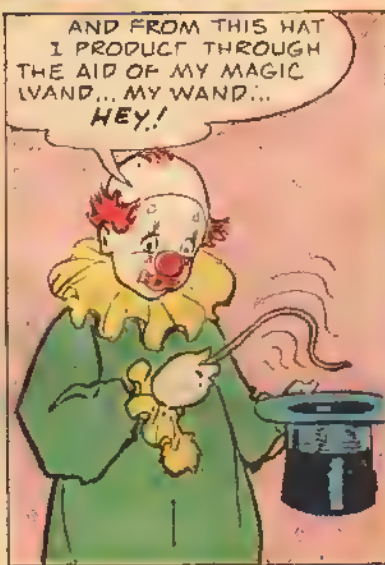
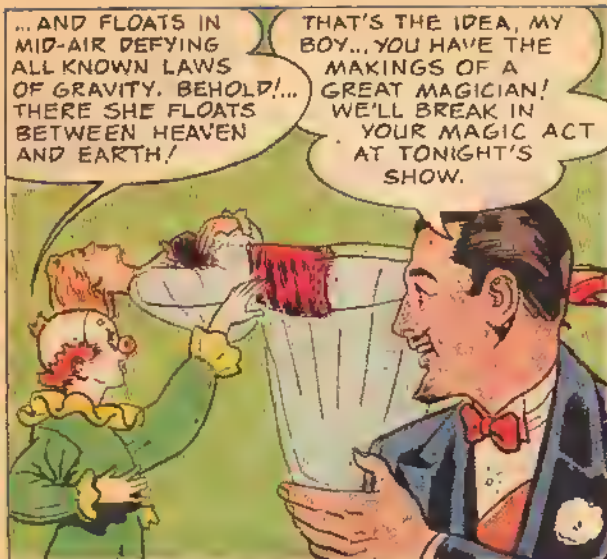
JEEPERS, THIS IS EXCITING!

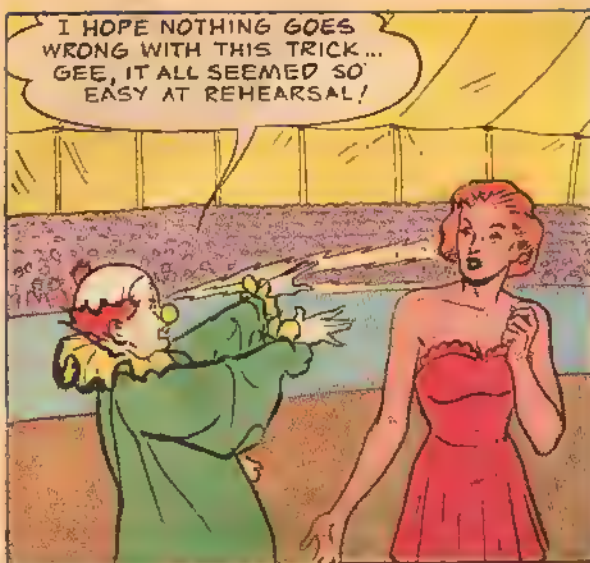


AND SO, DIANA, THE SLEEPING PRINCESS, FLOATS IN MID-AIR...

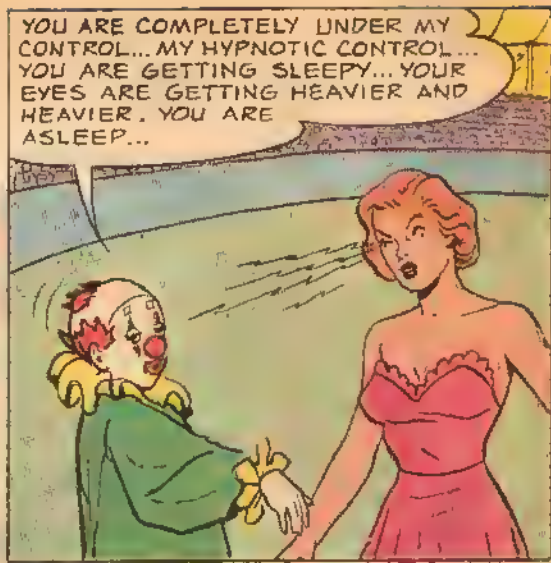
I GET IT... LET ME TRY!



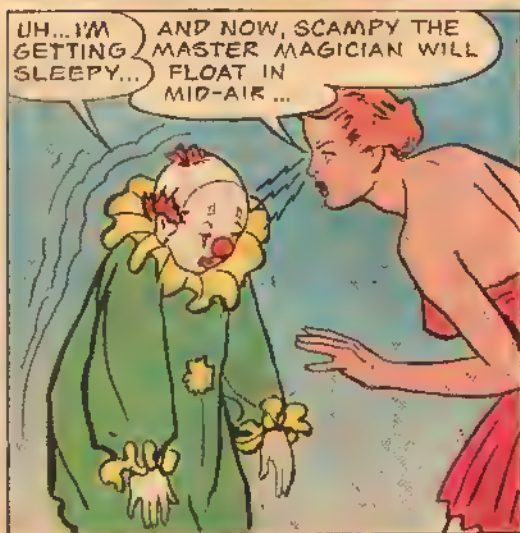




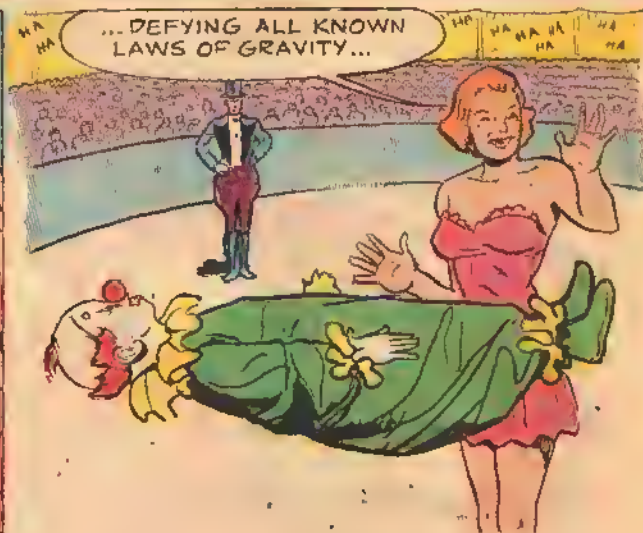
I HOPE NOTHING GOES
WRONG WITH THIS TRICK...
GEE, IT ALL SEEMED SO
EASY AT REHEARSAL!



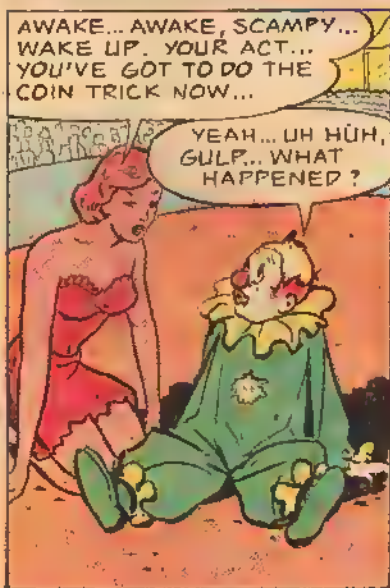
YOU ARE COMPLETELY UNDER MY
CONTROL... MY HYPNOTIC CONTROL...
YOU ARE GETTING SLEEPY... YOUR
EYES ARE GETTING HEAVIER AND
HEAVIER. YOU ARE
ASLEEP...



UH... I'M
GETTING
SLEEPY...
AND NOW, SCAMPY THE
MASTER MAGICIAN WILL
FLOAT IN
MID-AIR...

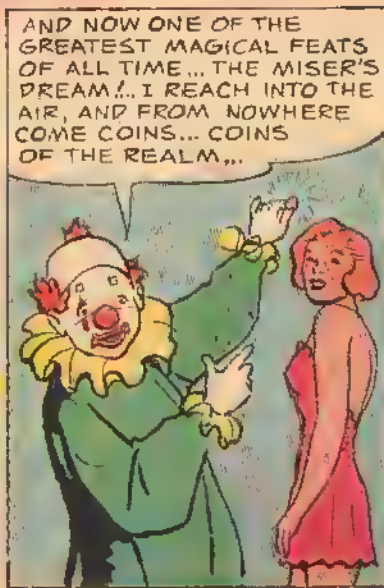


HA HA
...DEFYING ALL KNOWN
LAWS OF GRAVITY...
HA HA HA HA



AWAKE... AWAKE, SCAMPY...
WAKE UP. YOUR ACT...
YOU'VE GOT TO DO THE
COIN TRICK NOW...

YEAH... UH HUH,
GULP... WHAT
HAPPENED?



AND NOW ONE OF THE
GREATEST MAGICAL FEATS
OF ALL TIME... THE MISER'S
DREAM!... I REACH INTO THE
AIR, AND FROM NOWHERE
COME COINS... COINS
OF THE REALM...

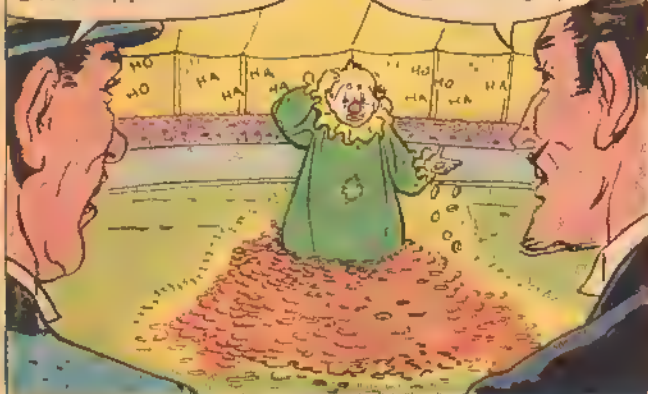


HEY, STOP...
THAT'S
ENOUGH
COINS... HEY!
NO MORE,
NO...

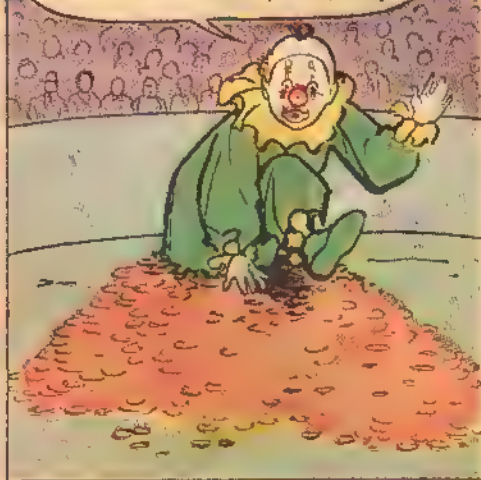
HURBIN
WAS RIGHT
... THIS IS
FUNNY!

YOU WERE RIGHT, HURBIN, THIS IS HILARIOUS... AND THE THING THAT MAKES IT FUNNY IS THAT SCAMPY DOESN'T KNOW IT'S FUNNY, OR WHY!

YES, AND BESIDES, I THINK IT WILL TEACH THE LITTLE SCAMP A LESSON HE WON'T FORGET! WATCH THIS NEXT TRICK!



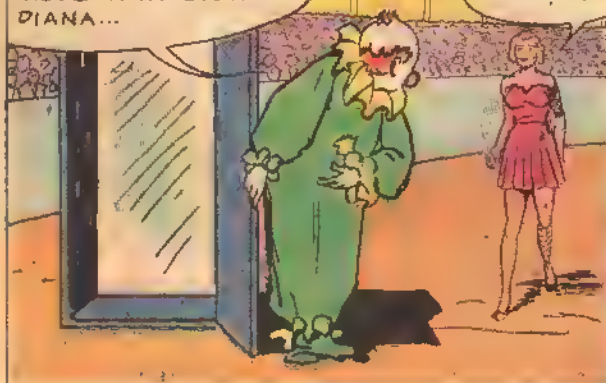
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL. I BETTER GO INTO MY LAST TRICK, QUICK!



THE CLIMAX OF SCAMPY'S ACT... THE GREAT SWORD BOX TRICK!

AND NOW, IF DIANA, THE HUMAN PIN-CUSHION WILL ENTER THIS BOX, I WILL DEMONSTRATE ONE OF THE GREATEST FEATS OF MODERN MAGIC... DIANA...

YES, SCAMPY

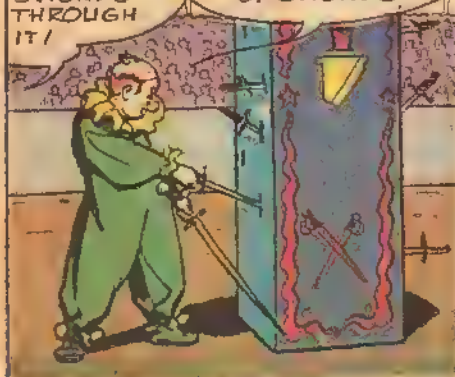


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION WITH THIS GIRL IN THE BOX, I NOW...



YAH, YAH! BET SHE AIN'T EVEN IN THE BOX ANY MORE... NO WONDER YOU CAN SHOVE SWORDS THROUGH IT!

I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, SIR, FOR I SHALL OPEN THE DOOR AND SHOW HER TO YOU COMPLETELY PIERCED BY SWORDS!

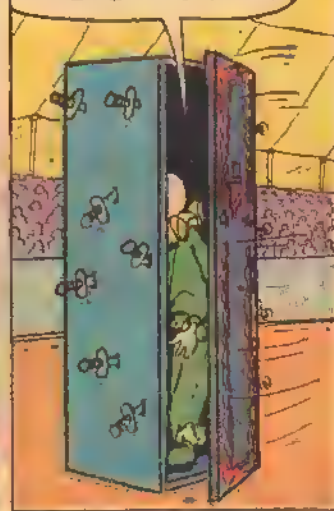


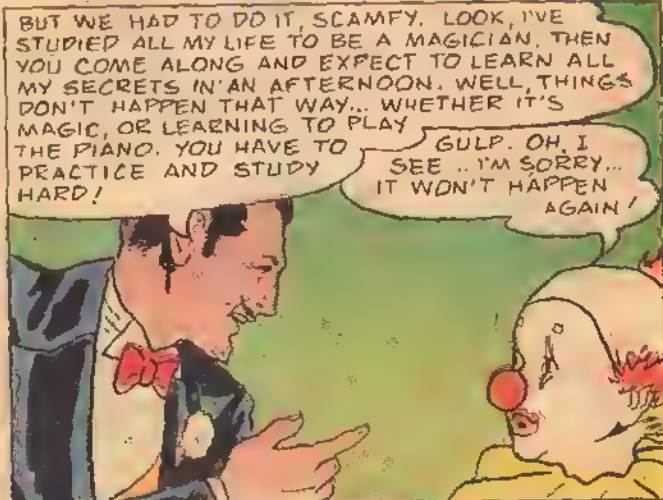
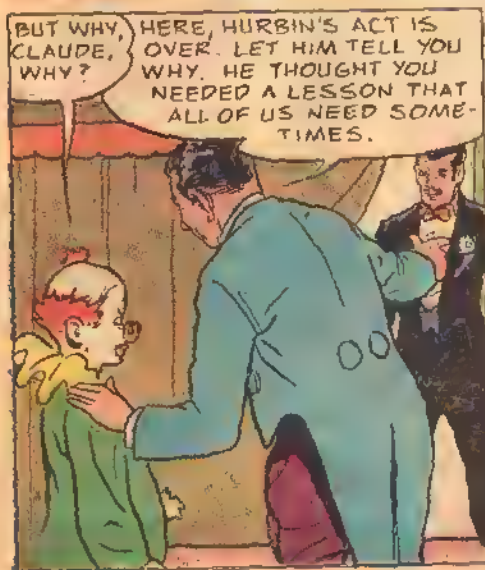
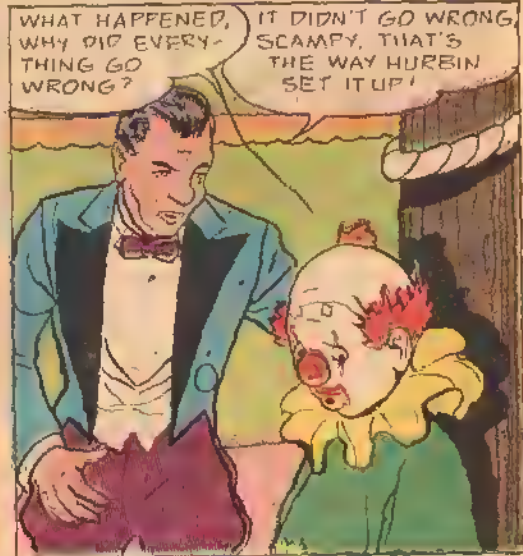
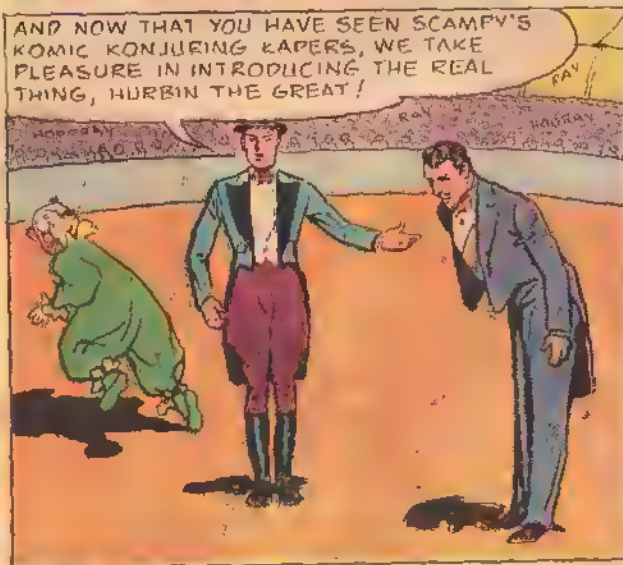
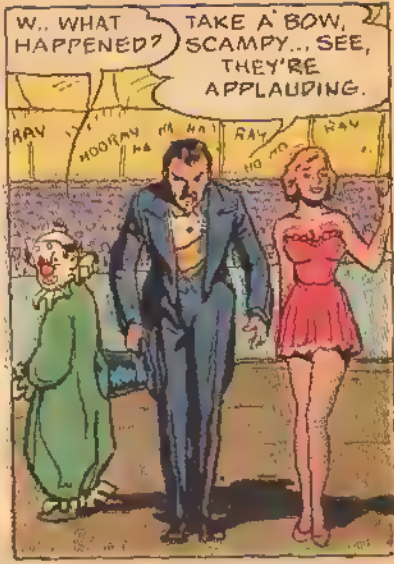
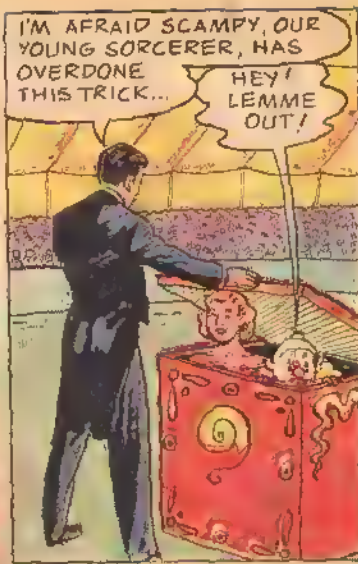
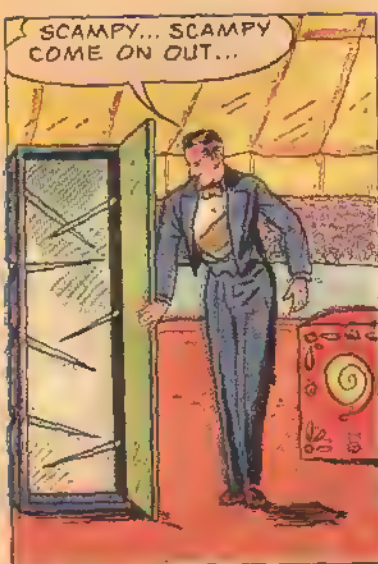
YAAAGH! I TOLD YOU SO!

BUT SHE'S GOTTA BE IN HERE...!



DIANA, YOO HOO, WHERE ARE YOU?





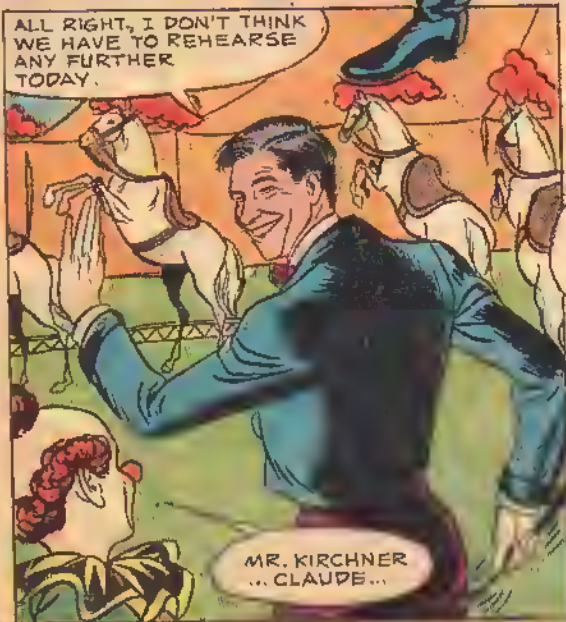
IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT HURBIN REALLY
BEGAN TO TEACH SCAMPY MAGIC! CONTINUED

CLAUDE KIRCHNER, RINGMASTER in the **TALE of the WHIP**



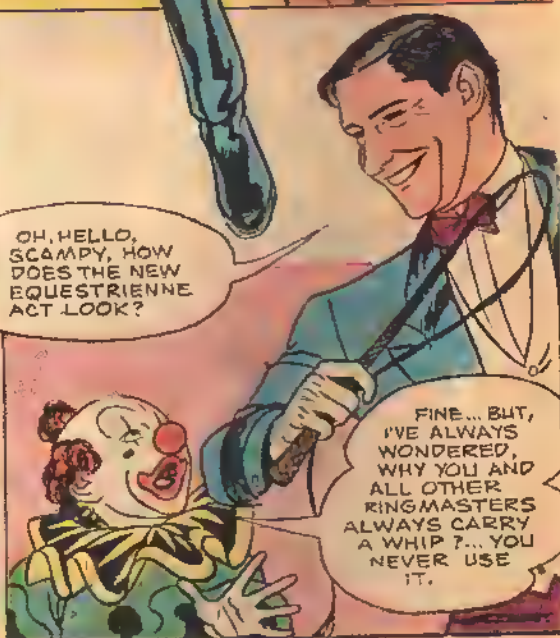
OF COURSE IT WAS A GOOD QUESTION, LOTS OF PEOPLE ASK WHY A RINGMASTER IN A CIRCUS ALWAYS CARRIES A WHIP... BUT PERHAPS SCAMPY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO ASK CLAUDE ABOUT THE PROBLEM...

ALL RIGHT, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO REHEARSE ANY FURTHER TODAY.



MR. KIRCHNER
... CLAUDE...

OH, HELLO, SCAMPY, HOW DOES THE NEW EQUESTRIENNE ACT LOOK?



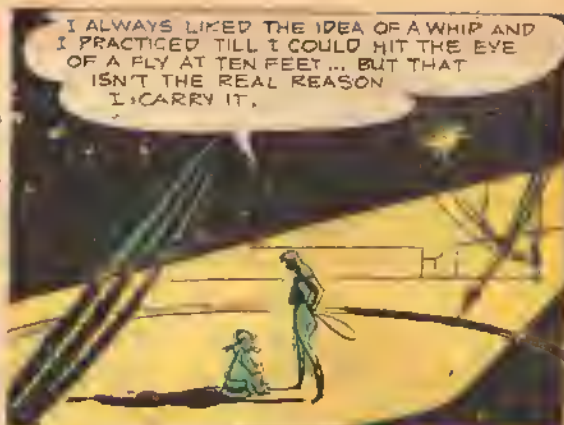
FINE... BUT, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, WHY YOU AND ALL OTHER RINGMASTERS ALWAYS CARRY A WHIP?... YOU NEVER USE IT.

WELL, SCAMPY, I'M GLAD YOU ASKED ME THAT. IT'S A LONG STORY... AT LEAST, THE REASON WHY I CARRY A WHIP IS...

OH GOOD! TELL ME...



I ALWAYS LIKED THE IDEA OF A WHIP AND I PRACTICED TILL I COULD HIT THE EYE OF A FLY AT TEN FEET... BUT THAT ISN'T THE REAL REASON I CARRY IT.



AND THERE WAS A TIME THAT I ESCAPED FROM A BURNING BUILDING CARRYING A BEAUTIFUL DAMSEL BY THE AID OF MY WHIP... BUT THAT ISN'T THE REASON EITHER...



THERE WAS EVEN A TIME I SAVED A LITTLE CHEEILD'S LIFE BY USING MY WHIP AS A TIGHTROPE BETWEEN TWO COLLAPSING BUILDINGS... IN AN EARTHQUAKE... BUT THAT ISN'T THE REASON EITHER...



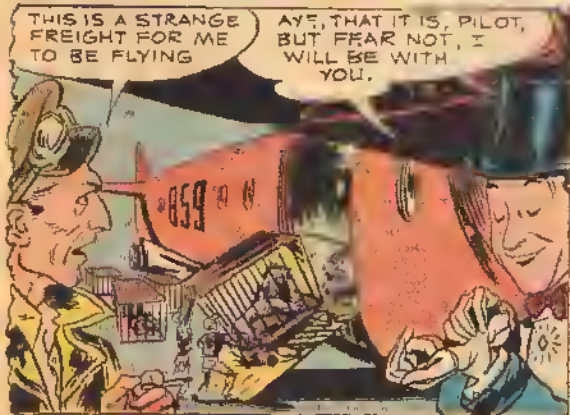
JELPERS.. IF NONE OF THOSE ARE THE REASON, THEN WHAT IS THE REAL REASON?

I'LL TELL YOU, MY BOY... IT CAME ABOUT LIKE THIS...



THIS IS A STRANGE FREIGHT FOR ME TO BE FLYING

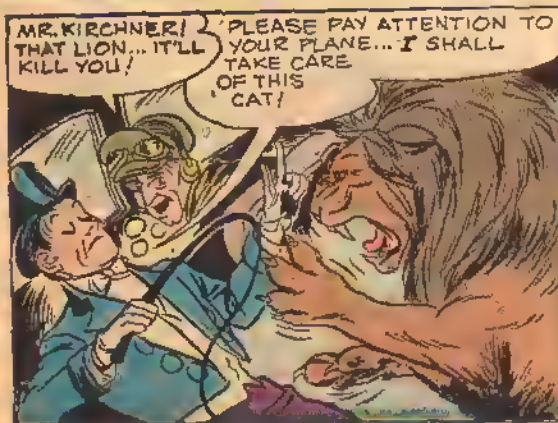
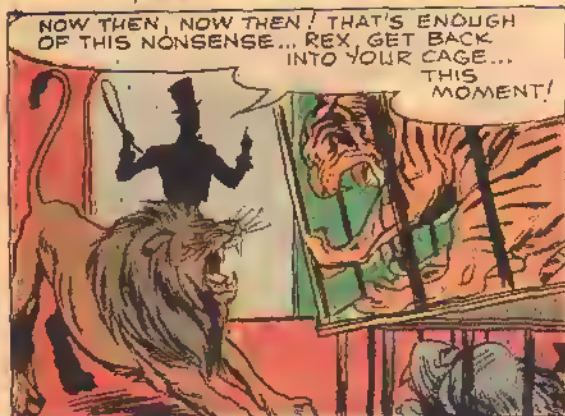
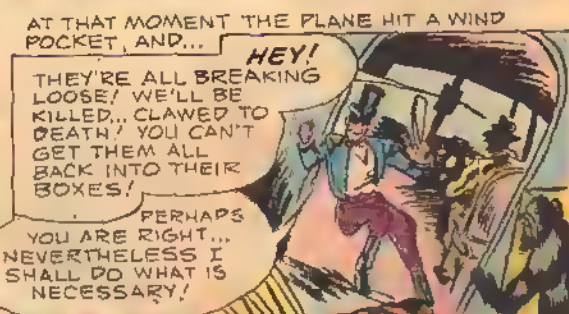
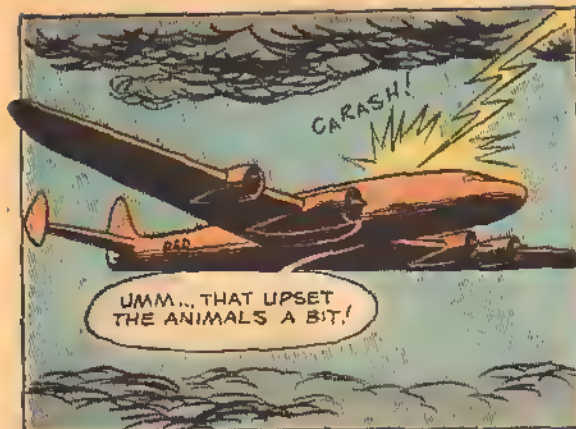
AYE, THAT IT IS. PILOT, BUT FEAR NOT, I WILL BE WITH YOU.



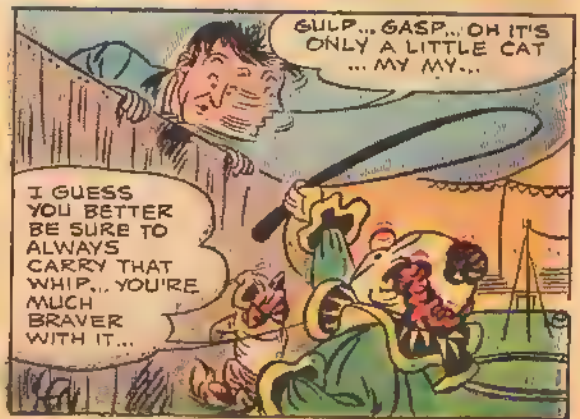
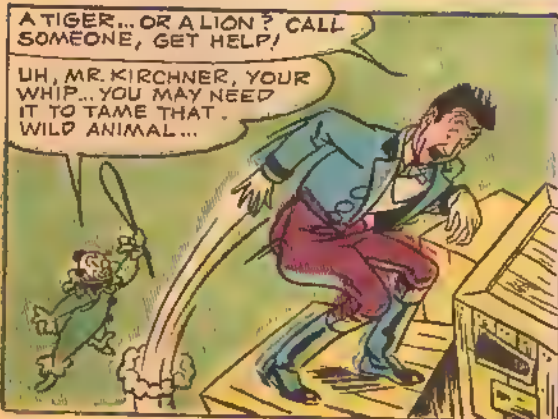
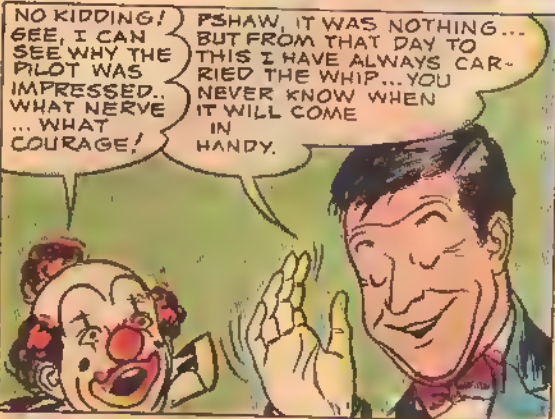
LOOKS LIKE A STORM BREWING UP AHEAD DOESN'T IT?

SURE DOES... I'M GONNA TRY TO GET ABOVE IT.





I KEPT ALL THOSE WILD ANIMALS UNDER MY CONTROL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TRIP ... WHEN WE CAME IN FOR A LANDING...

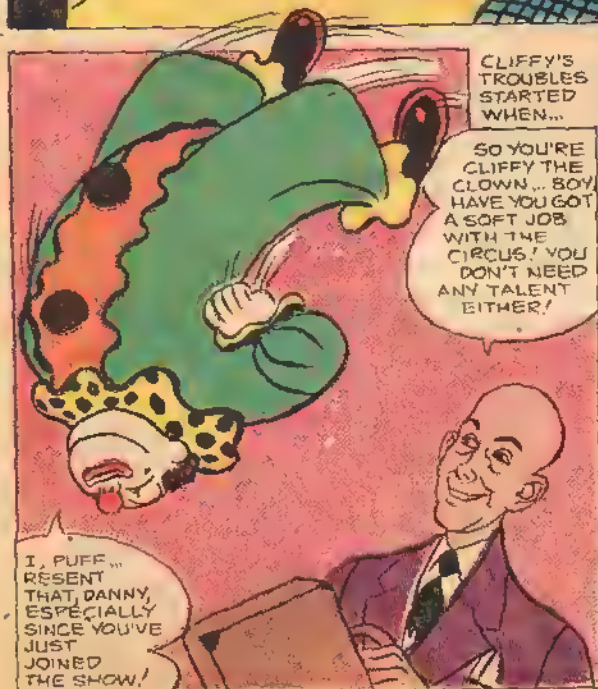


Cliffy meets DANNY the DODGER

THREE BALLS FOR A
SMALL DIME, FOLKS!
ENTITLES YOU TO THREE
THROWS AT THE CLOWN... PIT
YOUR SKILL AGAINST HIS
BOBBIN' NOGIN. STEP
RIGHT UP... HURRY.
HURRY, HURRY!

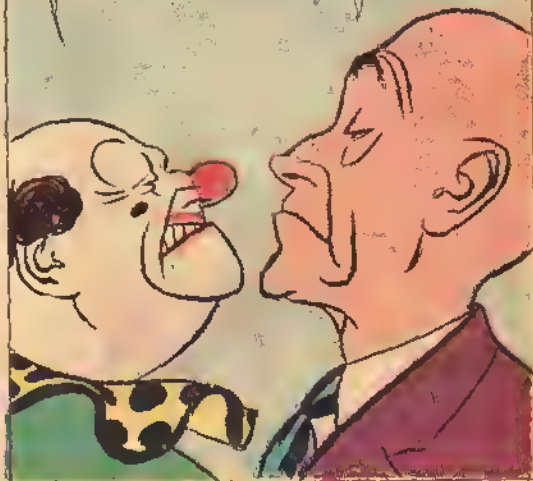
OH, WHY
DON'T I
KEEP MY
BIG MOUTH
SHUT!

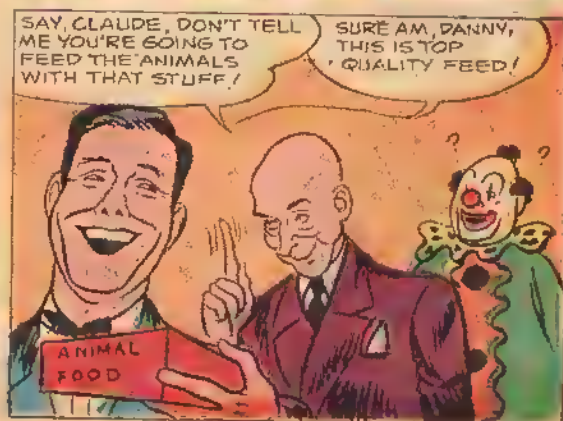
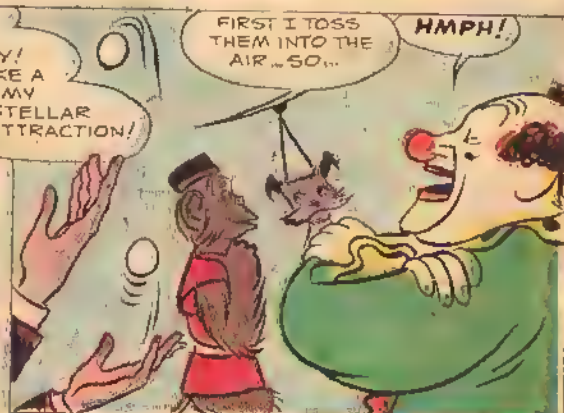
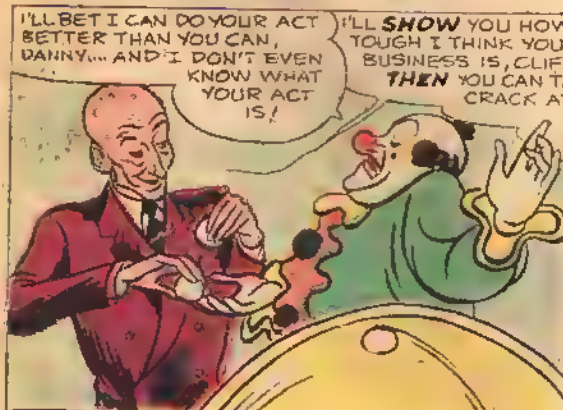
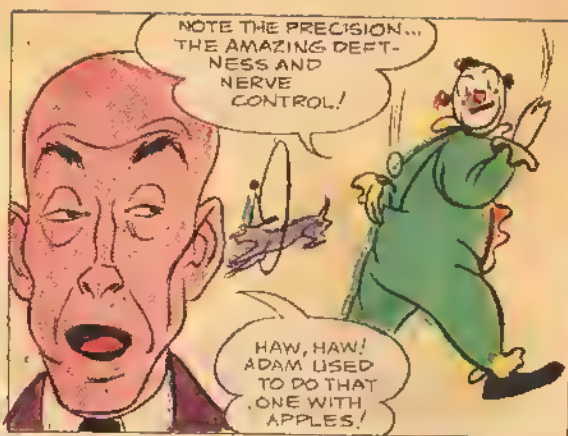
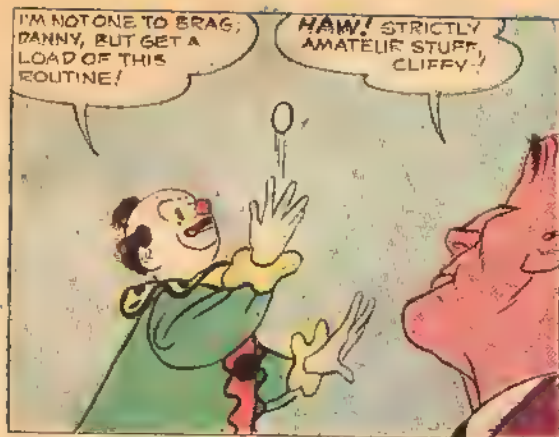
THE FIRST RULE IN THE CODE
OF HONOR AMONG CIRCUS
FOLKS IS THAT EVERY REAL
TROUPEUR MUST ALWAYS KEEP
HIS WORD IF HE MAKES A
PROMISE OR SAYS HE WILL DO
SOMETHING... AND NATURALLY,
CLIFFY, BEING A TRUE-BLUE
CIRCUS TROUPEUR ALWAYS
TRIES TO UPHOLD THIS AGE-
OLD CIRCUS TRADITION...
SOMETIMES IT PROVES
RATHER PAINFUL!

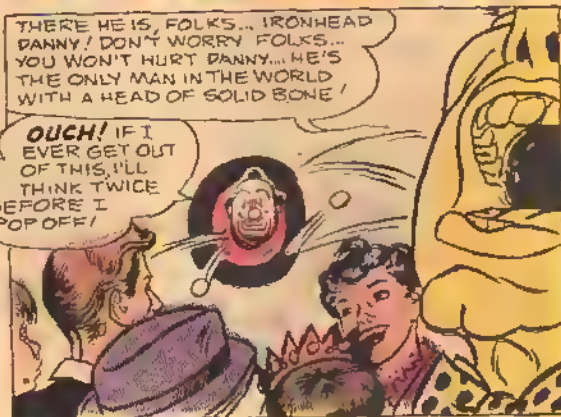
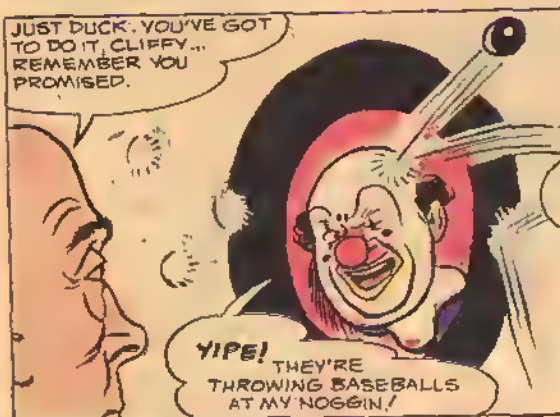
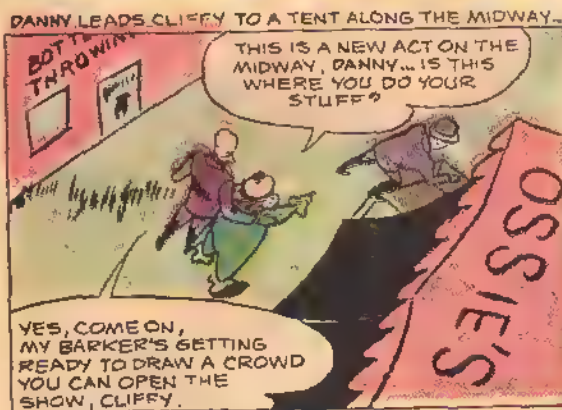
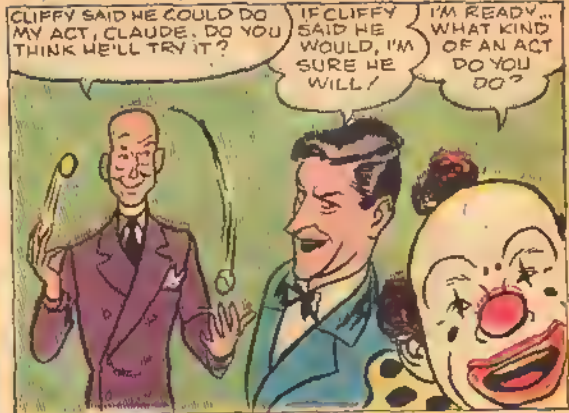
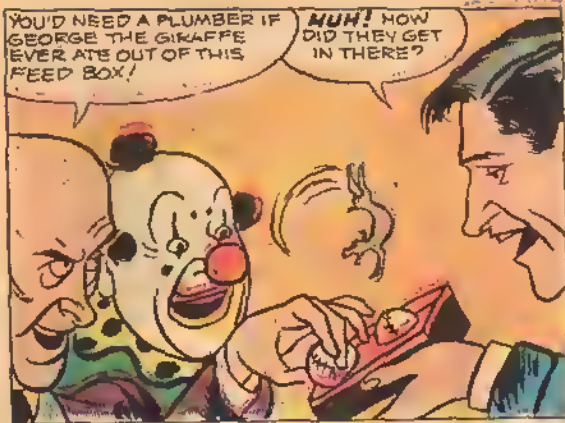


WHAT'S MORE, I'LL
BET YOU'VE GOT A
VERY CORNY ACT
WHICH ANY RUFF
COULD PUT
OVER!

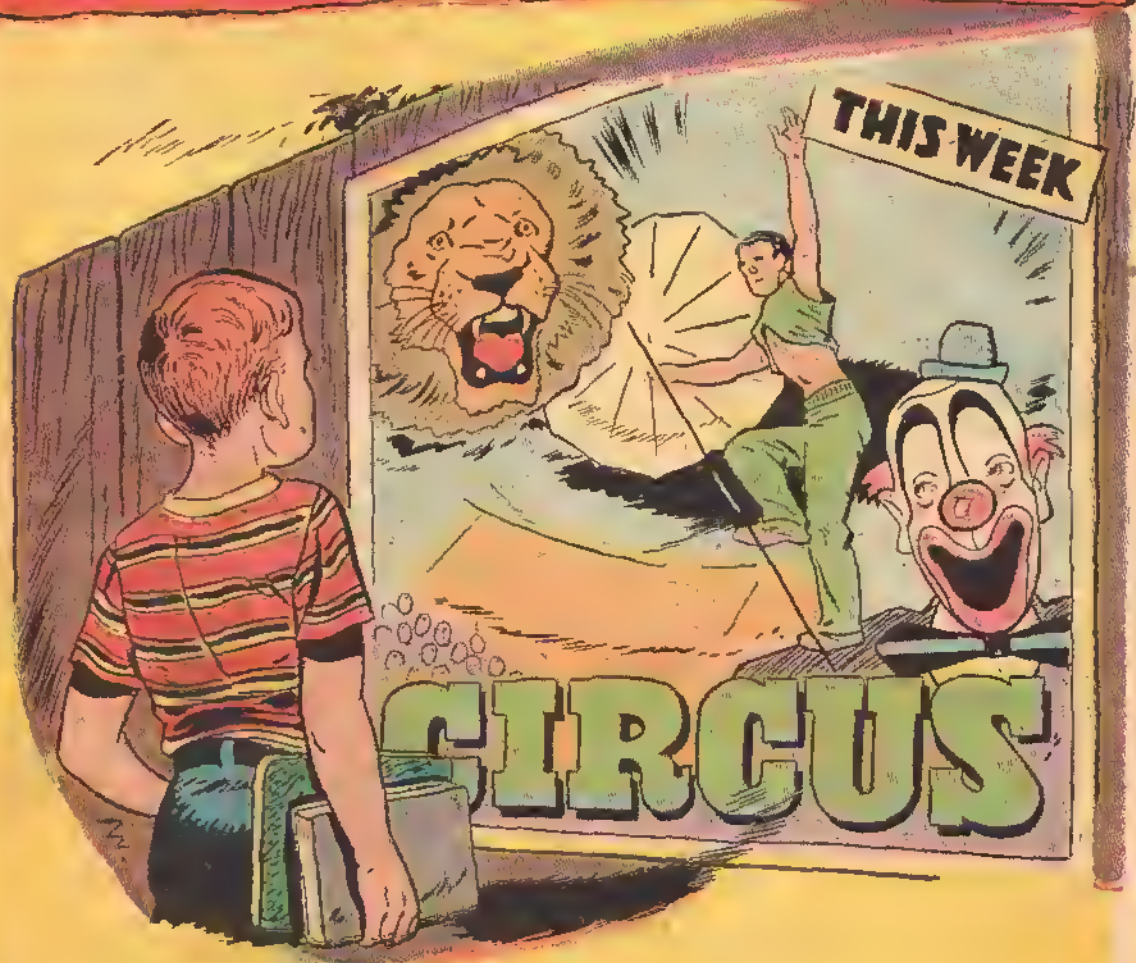
THEY'RE STILL TALKING
ABOUT ME DOWN IN UTICA
FALLS, CLIFFY! I'M
SLIGHTLY TERRIFIC AND
PRACTICALLY
IRREPLACEABLE!







THE DAY THE CIRCUS CAME!



Tommy was determined to get into the circus. The fact that he had no money did not stop him. The banners, the colors of the advertisements, were all running through his mind as he walked slowly to school.

School! The very thought was too much for him. How could he go to school on the day the circus opened? But if he played hooky . . . he made up his mind. He hid his books under the steps of the fire house. They would be safe there he knew.

Then he turned and walked the opposite way from school. Every place he looked he saw bill

boards with lions and tigers, clowns and acrobats . . . if he didn't go to the circus today he'd bust, that was all there was to it.

Ahead he could hear sounds, circusy sounds. The sound of the tent stakes being driven into the ground, the sound of animals roaring. It was so exciting he felt like running.

But he didn't. Instead he walked slowly around to the back of the lot where the men were busy putting up the big tent. He watched as they swung the big hammers that slammed the pegs deeply into the ground. Then he walked towards the trucks that held the animals.

A big man, heavy set, with a red face watched him as he walked towards the animals. "Hey you," the man said, and his voice was loud.

Tommy spun around, could it be a truant officer? No, this man wore loud flashy clothes, he must belong to the circus.

The man said, "Wanna get into the circus when it opens?"

"Okay, grab one of those pails and start watering the elephants." The man turned and busied himself opening some gates. Behind the gates Tommy could see the big grey beasts. He could see their trunks waving back and forth.

Then he grabbed the pail and ran to the water hose. He filled the pail with water and hurried back to the elephants. One suck and the pail was empty. The big trunk swayed in the breeze waiting for more water.

The first ten or fifteen times Tommy walked back and forth with the pail, it was not heavy. But from then on it seemed to weigh more and more and more.

Finally the pail became so heavy he could just about lift it. He was so tired that he had barely noticed that the big tent was up, he blinked his eyes as he rested his tired arm. The tent was up, the show was ready to begin!

And here he was bringing water to elephants, water that they seemed to be able to absorb by the ton!

The big man walked by again. "Hey you, come on with that water!"

"But . . . the show . . . the circus . . ." Tommy gulped.

"Ten more pails and you can quit and go ahead into the show."

Ten more! Tommy was staggering by the time he finished. He was more tired than he had ever been in his life. And somehow as he got more and more tired he began to feel more and more guilty about playing hooky from school. How was he ever going to explain it? What could he say to his father? How could he get a note to bring to school to excuse him for being absent?

Nine pails . . . and then, at last, ten. He was through! The music from the tent blared out. The circus was beginning!

The show was on! And there was no sign of the big man! If he didn't find the man how was he going to get into the show?

He searched, he looked, he ran, but nowhere was there a sign of the man. Inside the tent he could hear the music playing louder and louder, he heard the animals roaring, heard the people applaud as some acrobat did a particularly daring stunt . . . and all the while he was on the outside.

Finally, when the show was at least half over,

he found the man outside of a tent. He gasped, "Mister . . . the show . . ."

The man said, "Oh yeah, come on and I'll duck you in."

He was going to get in! That was all that mattered. For the moment he forgot all about how tired he was, how guilty he felt, all he could think of was the fact that he was getting into the circus!

And then, there it was, all the colors, all the excitement, just as he had pictured it. He hurried to a seat and sat back and watched. There were the lions and the tigers . . . and look . . . there came the very elephants that he had just watered!

But as he sat and watched he became more and more tired. His eyes began to close. No matter how exciting it was . . . he yawned, he was really tired.

He forced his eyes open again. There were the trapeze performers . . . gee . . . they dangled by their very toes . . .

His head nodded. He was asleep.

It wasn't till the grand finale when the music roared out, that he awakened. He sat up with a start. All his work had been for nothing!

He had slept through the show!

Now the people were leaving the tent. He trudged out after them unhappily. Was it for this that he had played hooky? For this that he was going to be punished For this that his muscles ached?

He was the most miserable little boy in the whole world. He walked back to the fire house and got his books from under the steps. What could he tell the teacher? That was the the big question.

One of his friends, Frank, ran up to him.

Frank yelled, "Hey, Tommy! Why weren't you in school today?"

"Uh . . . I was sick."

"Gee, what a day to be sick!"

"What do you mean?" Tommy looked at Frank who was grinning from ear to ear.

"Didn't you know? Didn't you hear about what happened?"

"No," Tommy said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

"The whole school . . . it was wonderful . . . they took us to the circus!" Frank said. "What a show! It was better than last year!"

"You mean . . ." Tommy said, "you mean . . . all the kids went to the circus . . ."

"Sure . . . that's why it was too bad you were sick!"

Tommy walked away. Maybe he had missed seeing the circus, but he learned a lesson!

He would never play hooky again!

THE END

NICKY and WOLFRAM

ADVENTURES OF
NICKY

NICKY HAS ALWAYS BEEN SORRY FOR THE FACT THAT HE NEVER WAS ABLE TO SPEND MUCH TIME IN SCHOOL DURING HIS YOUTH... HOWEVER HE CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND ON HIS TIME OFF READING AWAY IN SOME SECLUDED SPOT SUCH AS THE COUNTRY WHERE WE NOW FIND HIM DROWSING AWAY OVER A COPY OF LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. THE SUN IS VERY WARM AND NICKY IS GETTING SO...O...O SLEEPY... AND THEN...

the wolf

IT'S REVELLE NICKY, LET'S RISE AND SHINE! WOLFRAM THE WOLF IS IN NEED OF HELP! COME ON, COME ON, THIS MAP HAS GOT ME DIZZY... WHICH WAY IS IT TO GRANDMA'S? I'VE REALLY GOT TO GET BUSY!

HUH? WOLFRAM THE WOLF! OH, OKAY. I'LL SHOW YOU... GIVE ME THE MAP



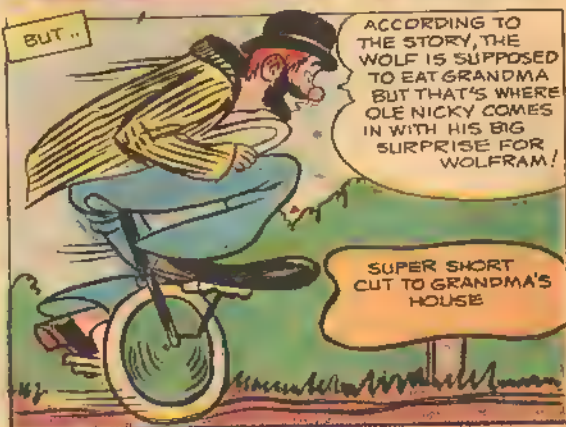
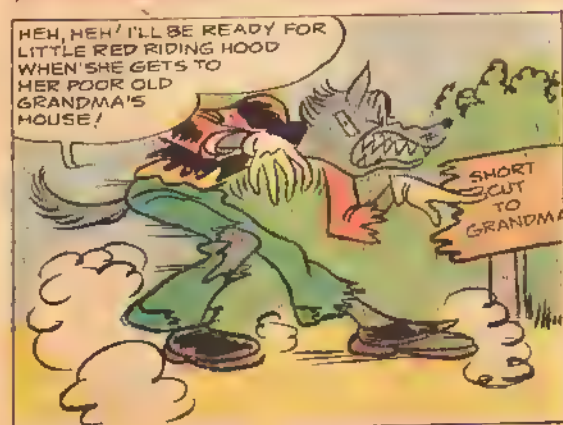
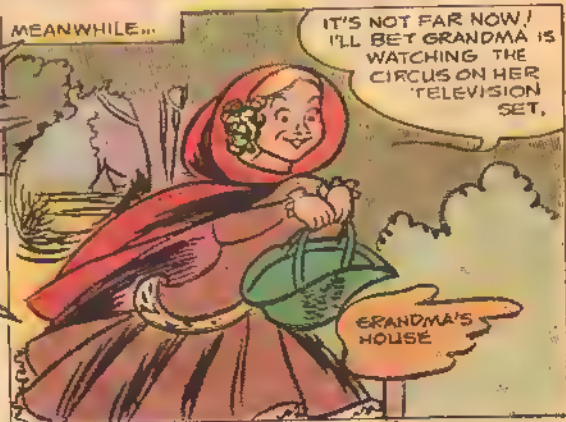
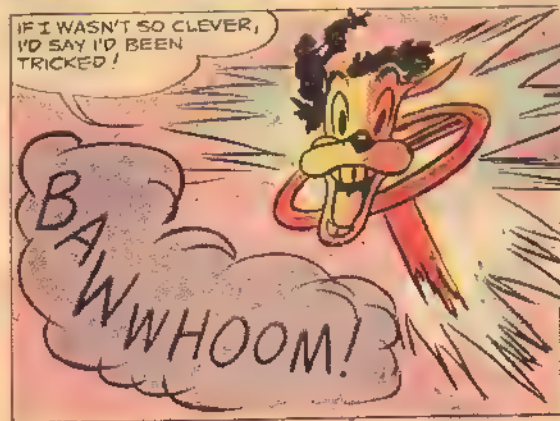
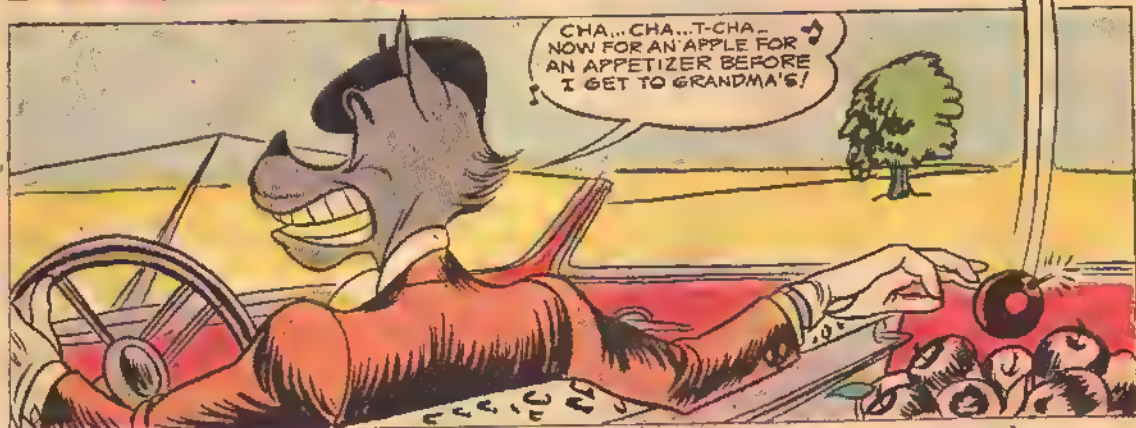
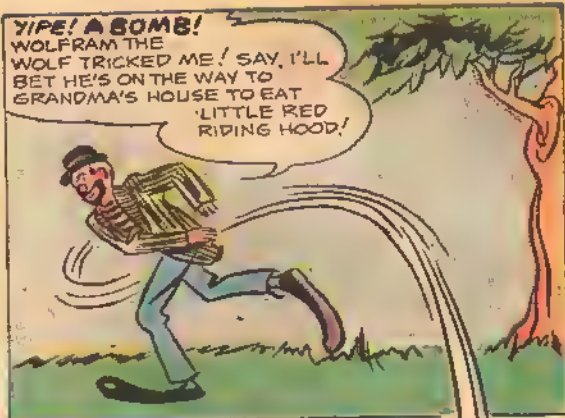
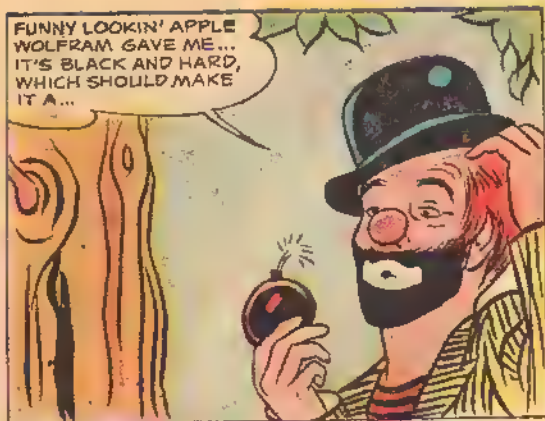
I JUST TOLD A LITTLE GIRL THE WAY TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE, WOLFRAM... MAYBE YOU'LL MEET HER ON THE WAY.

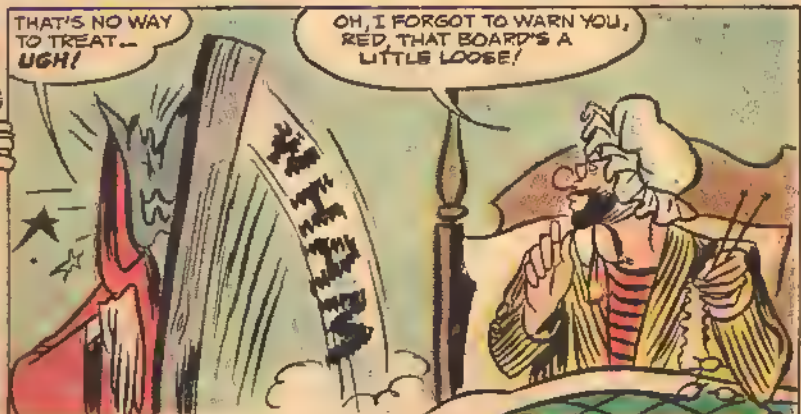
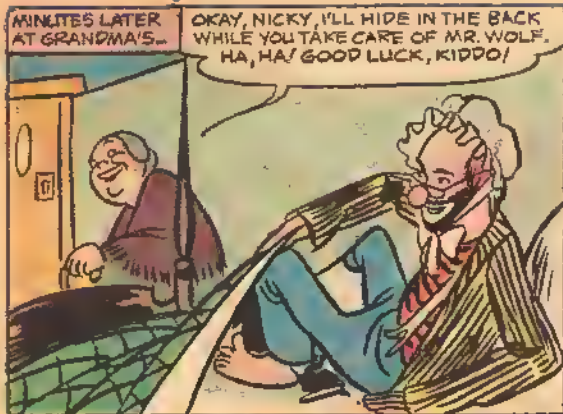
HA, HA! MAYBE I'LL EAT HER ON THE WAY IS MORE LIKE IT, YAC, YAC!

HERE'S AN APPLE FOR YOUR TROUBLE, NICKY!

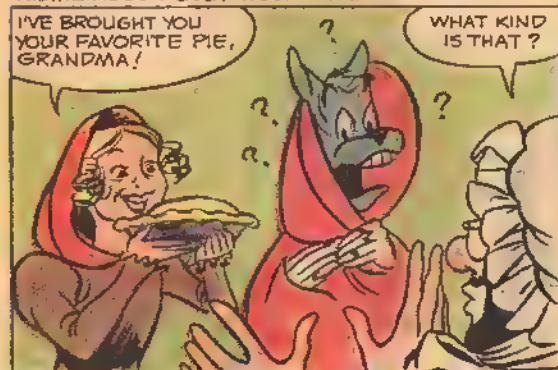
YAWN - GEE, THANKS, WOLFRAM... SAY HELLO TO GRANDMA FOR ME.

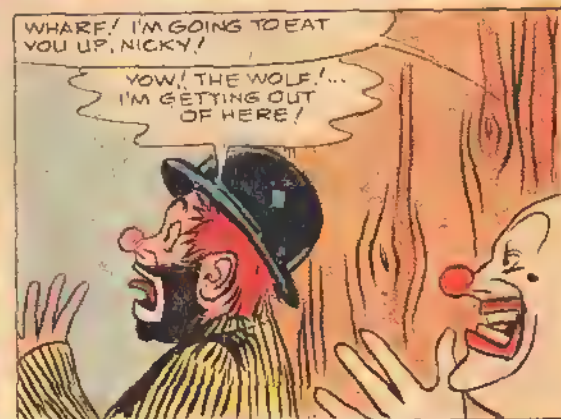
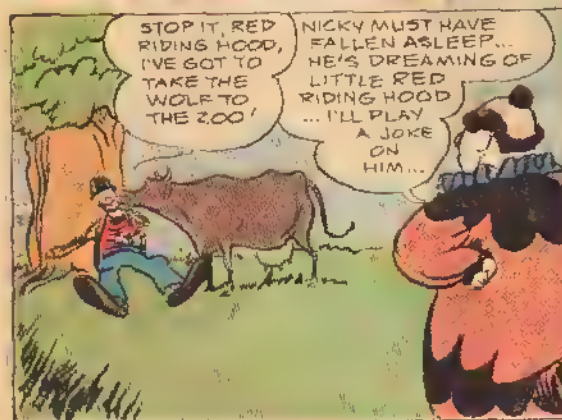
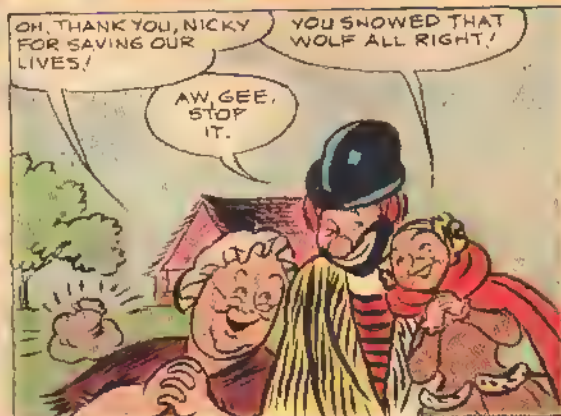
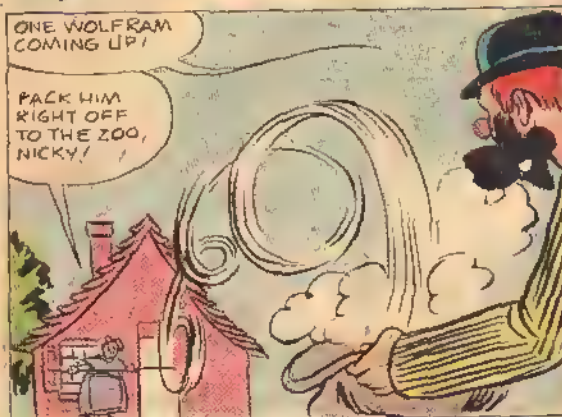
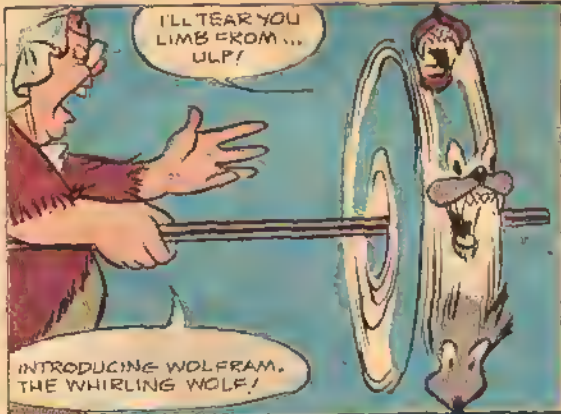
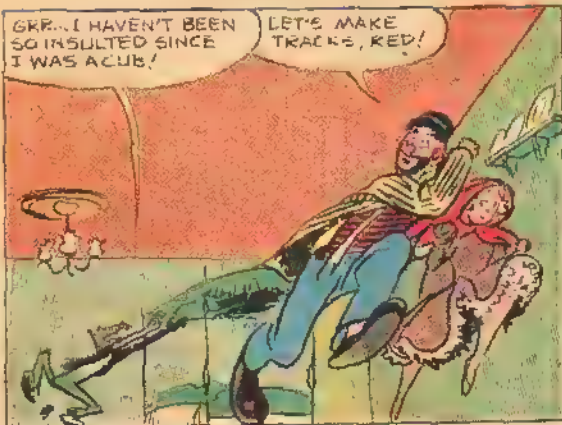






MEANWHILE GRANDMA HAS WARNED LITTLE RED
RIDING HOOD ABOUT WOLFRAM...





CONTINUED

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of

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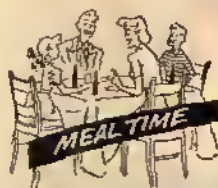


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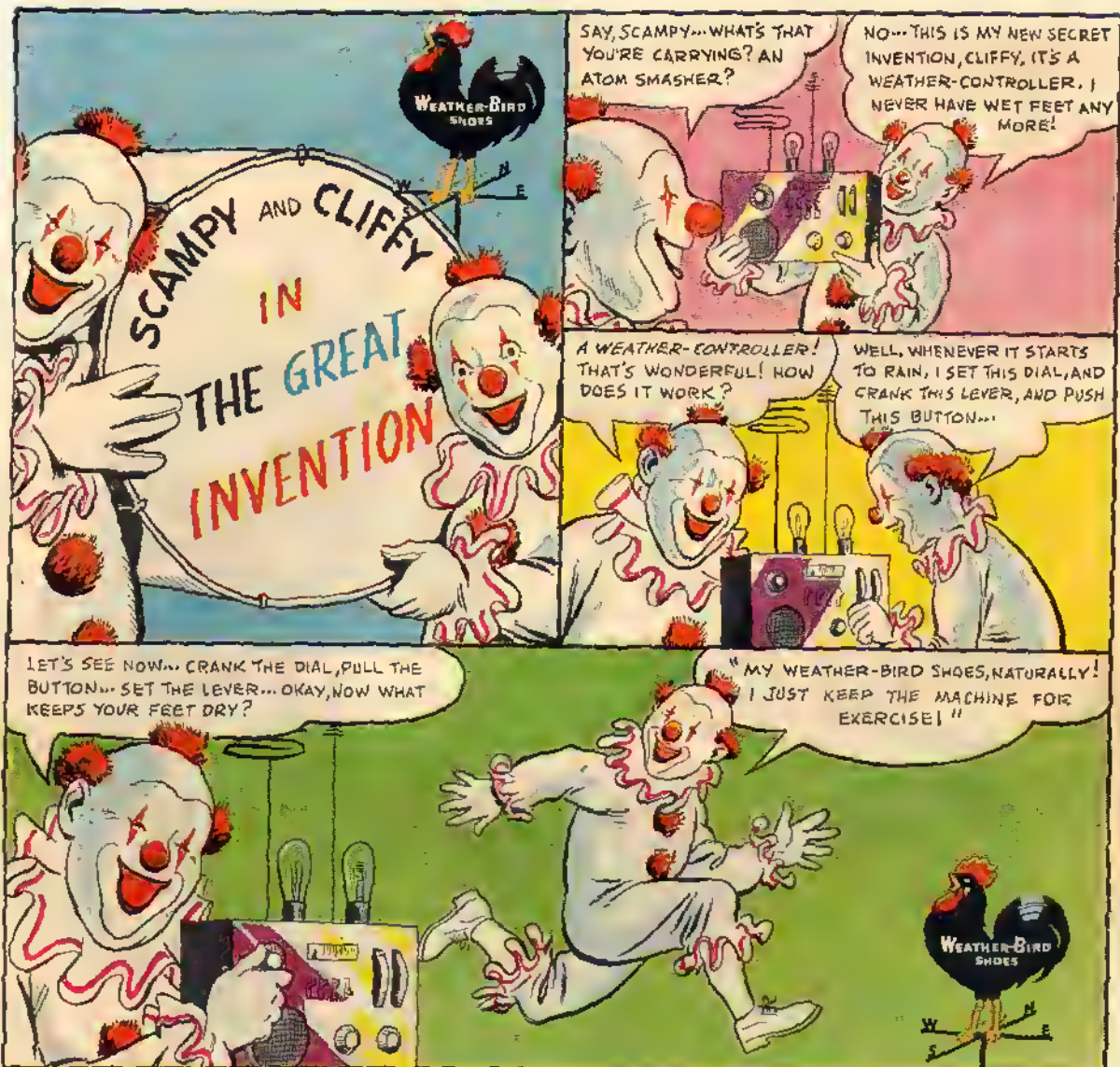
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